NOVEMBER, 1959

AMATEUR RADIO

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AMATEUR RADIO

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EDITORIAL

★

Television Interference and the Amateur Service

Prior to the introduction of the Australian television service the W.I.A. envisaged the probability of interference to viewers by Amateur transmitters, other frequency users and electrical apparatus generally. With this in mind it sought the opportunity to submit information to the Royal Commission on Television.

In actual fact the number of cases of interference by Amateur transmissions have, until recent date, been very few. However, over the past few months there has been quite an increase in t.v. interference, the majority of cases being due to 50 Mc. transmissions and also from v.h.f. and h.f. transmissions in fringe areas. The problem is essentially one of public relations—the manner in which the Amateur approaches the problem and the way in which the viewer receives his efforts to eliminate the interference.

There are two areas of interference—(a) areas essentially serviced by the existing television transmitters, and (b) areas which we call fringe areas not specifically serviced by the existing television transmitters. There are many forms of interference, of course, but our own transmissions which interfere with t.v. is our particular problem. As far as we are concerned our transmitters must be t.v.i. proofed, free from harmonic radiation and generally constructed and operated in such a manner that radiation of other than the desired frequency signal is not possible. That's fair enough and is in line with the regulations governing the operation of Amateur transmitting stations.

But, unfortunately, the problem does not end there in actual practice, for under certain conditions interference is occurring—particularly around 50 Mc.—which is attributable to lack of selectivity in the t.v. receiver "front ends" rather than by reason of incorrect operation of the transmitting equipment. The problem is difficult enough in areas essentially serviced by the transmitting stations, but is greatly aggravated in fringe areas where the received t.v. signal is weak.

It is quite a problem to solve because on the one hand the public spend upwards of £150 in serviced areas and upwards of £400 in fringe areas and naturally enough consider they have the right to obtain interference-free reception; on the other hand the Amateur spends many hundreds of pounds and, providing he is satisfied that his equipment is operating within the conditions governing his license, he rightly considers he should be able to pursue the hobby in which he has participated over the years when there was no television service. In both cases the Postmaster-General's Department accepts a license fee (including fringe areas) but in the case of the Amateur it is £1 for some 3,800 license holders compared with £5 for thousands of t.v. viewers.

For the Amateur to adopt a "stand-over" attitude as much as to say, "I was here first," is fundamentally and democratically wrong. On the

(Continued on Page 13)

THE CONTENTS

Modifying the AR8 Receiver

G. F. JENKINSON,* VK3ZFA

THE purpose of this article is to describe some modifications to well known R.A.A.F. AR8 Aircraft Receiver which the author has carried out and which have very considerably improved the performance The main modifications are:—

(1) Addition of a noise limiter.
(2) Alteration of the audio system.
(3) Addition of a magic eye and/or S meter.
(4) Changes of valves in the h.f. unit.
(5) Use of a Q multiplier.

DETAILS

The first step is to disconnect the three front-panel controls which are not required for Amateur use. These are: "Traffic-DF-Sense" switch, "Sense Resistance," and "Bearing-Reciprocal" switch. The leads for the latter two can be disconnected and put out of the way, but the leads to the rotating contact and fixed contact which is used in the traffic position must be lifted clear and joined directly together. The "Traffic-DF-Sense" switch is not used in the following modifications, but can conveniently be used as a transmit-receive switch.

The two-pin outlet below the "M/F AE Tuning" knob is disconnected, and can be used as a speaker socket.

The bakelite aerial socket is replaced by a v.h.f. coaxial socket to allow coaxial cable to be used. However, this socket is such that a normal "banana" plug can be inserted if required.

The two power cable sockets can be conveniently removed and the lower hole be used with a more convenient type of power plug. The upper hole can be used for a magic eye (see modification 3).

(1) NOISE LIMITER

This uses a 6H6 (or 6AL5) valve (see Fig. 1). This valve and most of the associated components can be mounted on a small bracket below the m.f. switch (band-change) and coils. The heater power for this valve and also the magic eye were obtained, in the author's receiver, from the supply which had originally fed the 6X5 front-end protection valve. (The heater line was left wired for 12v. and thus the 6H6 plus 6U5 magic eye drew 0.6 amp. and made up for the removal of the 6X5 which alone drew 0.6 amp.)

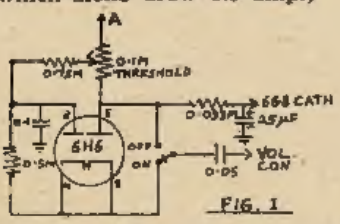

FIG. 1

The "Bearing/Reciprocal" switch was used for the noise limiter on-off switch, and the "Sense-Resistance" pot. was replaced by one of 100K ohms and used for the threshold control.

It should be noted that for good noise limiter performance the cathode bypass of the 6G8 audio amplifier should be increased from its original value of 0.05 μF. to 10 or 25 μF.

The connection to point A of Fig. 1 (i.e. to the bottom of the secondary of I.F.T.4 (T3) must be made to one of the terminals at the **top** of this transformer, as the transformer contains some resistors and capacitor in its can, and the bottom terminals connect to point A through a resistor. An ohmmeter reading between 6G8 pin 5 and one of the **"unused"** terminals on the top of the last I.f., which reads 7 ohms, will give the terminal to use.

A coax cable is run from the point found above, through a hole drilled in the chassis for the purpose, to the threshold pot. on the front panel.

The shielded lead to the tag, one around clockwise from the tag connected to the plate of the last 6U7G on the last i.f. transformer, should be disconnected (open-circuited) at this point or at the other end of the shielded cable.

This noise limiter circuit is the one which is used in the AR88 receiver and seems capable of giving very good results.

(2) AUDIO MODIFICATIONS

To make up for a loss of audio gain caused by the noise limiter, the author added another audio stage after the 6G8. This was a 12SQ7, but with rearrangement of heater supplies other valves could be used, e.g. 6SQ7.

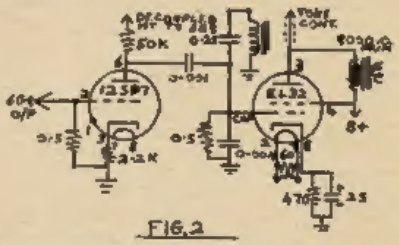

FIG. 2

The amplifier (see Fig. 2) is mounted on the socket previously occupied by the 6X5.

To drive a speaker more efficiently, the 6J7 output tube was changed to an EL32. The output transformer used for the 6J7 was removed completely. B+ and plate leads from the EL32 were run, in the author's receiver, to the loop aerial socket. (The output transformer was mounted on the speaker.)

The EL32 was chosen for the output valve because this requires only 0.2 amp. heater current, and thus the addition of a 60 ohm resistor across the heater socket connections was all that was needed to balance the heater current back to the correct value. (Circuit is given in Fig. 2.)

An audio filter was also added to the audio section (see Fig. 2). The choke used was a small speaker transformer with the paper removed from the air gap in the core and the plates interleaved. The value of capacitor is best found experimentally. The filter in the author's receiver is a high-pass type with a low frequency cut-off of about 200 cycles. This improves the readability of weak signals.

(3) MAGIC EYE and/or S METER

A magic eye (6U5/6G5) was mounted behind the spare hole on the front panel which resulted from the removal of the original "power" and junc. box" sockets. The 6U5/6G5, together with the 6H6 noise limiter, made up the heater current to the value originally taken by the 6X5. For circuit see Fig. 3a.

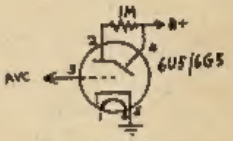

FIG 3(a)

While the magic eye was useful, it was felt that an S meter would be more valuable. A simple meter measuring plate current was considered but rejected because it read backwards and only a small section of the scale could be used. However, a glance at Fig. 3b will reveal that by using about three resistors and a pot., plus the meter, the S meter is forward reading, can be zero set to any desired level, uses the full scale, and can be set to any desired sensitivity (e.g. no signal reading zero, and full scale reading at S9, or full scale at S99!!!)

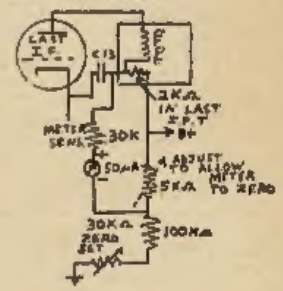

FIG 3(b)

The meter used was a 50 μA. temperature gauge. However, any sensitive meter could be used with slight resistor changes. The meter was mounted away from the receiver.

The zero-set pot. was mounted at a convenient point at the back of the receiver.

(4) H.F. UNIT

It was felt that modern valves in this unit would improve the performance, and this was found to be the case.

Adaptors for plugging the miniature valves into the octal sockets were made by mounting the appropriate miniature socket on an octal plug (e.g. a discarded valve base).

Where the grid lead originally went to the valve cap, a flying lead was run from the adaptor to the appropriate tuning gang lug.

*61 Were St., Brighton Beach, S.5, Vic.

R.F. Stage.—The 6U7 can be conveniently replaced by the noval valve 6BY7 which has very similar operating conditions to a 6U7, but a higher mutual conductance, and lower noise figure. No circuit changes are required.

Table of connections:

6U7 Octal Plug Pin	Connect'n join to Pin	6BY7 Noval Socket
1	—	—
2	Heater	5
3	Plate	7
4	Screen	8
5	Suppressor	9
6	—	—
7	Heater	4
8	Cathode	6, 1, 3, centre spigot
Cap	Grid	2

Mixer Stage.—This is a 6A8 and in the author's receiver this was changed to a 6AJ8/ECH81. A 6AN7/ECH80 could also be used, but has different socket connections. Once again, no circuit changes were found necessary.

It should be noted that the signal grid in a 6A8 is grid 3, but in a 6AJ8, grid 1.

Table for 6A8—ECH81:

6A8 Octal Plug Pin	Connect'n join to Pin	ECH81 Noval Socket
1	—	—
2	Heater	4
3	Plate	6
4	Screens	1
5	Osc. Grid	7
6	Osc. Plate Grid	ignore
7	Heater	5
8	Cathode	9, 8, 3, spigot
Cap	Signal Grid	2

Oscillator.—In the author's receiver this was a 6V6, and trouble was experienced with the oscillator not working reliably at the low end of range F. The circuit was checked and many 6V6s tried, without improvement. The trouble appeared to be due partly to low heater voltage. The oscillator was then changed to a 6AS6 (or 6AK5) (both of which are miniature 7-pin types). This made the oscillator perform very well on all h.f. bands.

The only circuit change required is to connect a 25 ohm 3-watt resistor across the heater pins (2 and 7) inside the receiver itself to make up for the difference in heater current between the 6AK5 or 6AS6 (0.175a) and the 6V6 (0.45a.). With no other circuit changes the 6AS6 is running close to maximum ratings, but seems quite satisfactory.

Table for 6V6—6AS6 (or 6AK5):

6V6 Octal Plug Pin	Connect'n join to Pin	6AS6 Min. 7-pin Socket
1	—	—
2	Heater	3
3	Plate	5
4	Screen	6
5	Grid	1
6	—	—
7	Heater	4
8	Cathode	2 **and** 7

Do not forget the heater resistor!

The receiver should then be realigned and the split rotor plates of the oscillator section of the tuning gang be bent **slightly** if the tracking is found to be out between dial reading and frequency received.

Note.—The intermediate frequency is 755 Kc. and thus to receive b.c. band stations near this frequency, the i.f. must be set accurately. It is suggested that the signal generator frequency be checked against the nearest b.c. station in frequency, e.g. 3LO on 770 Kc. A list of b.c. station frequencies is contained in the W.I.A. Call Book.

(5) Q MULTIPLIER

Generally this is a regenerative device somewhere in the i.f. strip, the amount of regeneration being controllable. Just before oscillator occurs, the device exhibits a very narrow peak in its frequency response, and if coupled into the i.f. strip can be used to peak or minimise a narrow band of frequencies.

For the AR8, a transistor Q multiplier was first tried. This was coupled to the receiver by only a single coaxial cable which went to the mixer plate. This gave a fairly narrow notch in the response. It was, however, rejected, mainly because it lowered the receiver gain considerably.

A valve circuit (Fig. 5) was then tried. This worked very well, exhibiting a very sharp peak just before oscillation occurred. This peak was sufficiently narrow to make phone copy unpleasantly deep and unintelligible. By reducing the feedback, the bandwidth could be increased to anything required. Also, with the Q multiplier set for good selectivity, the receiver gain was greater than without the Q multiplier, i.e. the addition of the Q multiplier leads to increased selectivity and gain.

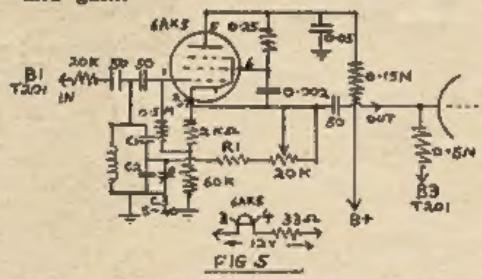

FIG 5

The connections to the Q multiplier were taken to the **top** of the first i.f. transformer (T201). The lead into the Q multiplier (which was built in a small "jack box" and sat on top of the receiver) was taken from the top contact of T201, which went, previously, to the 6U7 1st i.f. grid. (This coil connection is contact B1). The output of the Q multiplier was taken by another length of coaxial cable straight to the 1st i.f. amplifier cap, and to give a d.c. return to this valve grid, as well as a.v.c., a ½ meg. resistor was run from the grid cap to contact B3 of T201. This contact goes to the cold end of the secondary, directly, and thus there is decoupled a.v.c. voltage at this point. Contact B3 is two positions clockwise round from B1, B2 being just a hole.

The Q multiplier must be the **first** i.f. valve. Resistor R1 is chosen so that oscillation occurs when most of the 20K ohm pot. is shorted out. (R1 is 2K ohms to 20K ohms.)

The tuning coil is chosen, along with C1 and C2 (which are about equal in value) to tune to 755 Kc. with capacitor C3 at mid position. The coil used was one of the windings of an old wooden-cored 455 (?) Kc. i.f. transformer. The frequency can be checked by a g.d.o. If the g.d. oscillator will not tune down to the required frequency, a simple way to use it is to connect a spare tuning capacitor across the pins of the coil by twisting the wires from the capacitor around the appropriate coil pins. This capacitor can then be tuned for a dip as usual and the frequency be determined by locating the signal on a receiver and reading the receiver frequency. (Make sure the receiver is not tuned to a harmonic of the grid dip oscillator, by listening on frequencies which could give harmonics on the observed frequency.

To prevent disturbing the main heater line, the Q multiplier was run from 12v. through a 33 ohms dropping resistor.

Note that the AR8 normally has no d.c. return to chassis for the heaters.

— . . . —

BOOK REVIEW

"G.E. TRANSISTOR MANUAL"

This booklet contains information in the following three topics: (1) Semiconductor device fundamentals and principles of application (approx. 60 pages); (2) Typical, practical circuits (approx. 50 pages); (3) Specifications of G.E. devices (approx. 50 pages).

The semi-conductor devices discussed are junction rectifiers, simple junction transistors, unijunction transistors (double base diodes), controlled rectifiers (hook transistors), and tetrode transistors.

After a disappointingly brief introductory chapter on "Basic Semiconductor Theory" the various devices are discussed in terms of their application. This is, of course, a sensible enough classification but, unfortunately, the obvious multiplicity of authors results in differing standards of presentation from one chapter to the next. Even more important is the failure to integrate the treatment of the various devices in terms of those fundamental factors which are common to all. For example, on page 15 under "Biasing", the temperature dependence of I_{co} is mentioned without any explanation or elaboration, whilst forty-nine pages later under "Transistor Switches" there appears a very worthwhile discussion of the origin and rate of increase of I_{co}. This chapter on "Transistor Switches" is the best and most complete section of the book but is not likely to be of great use to people interested in communication engineering.

The chapters on "Basic Amplifiers", "Hi-Fi" Circuits, and "Radio Circuits" are little more than collections of practical circuits which have been prepared with "reasonable care . . . although no responsibility is assumed . . . for any consequences of their use." These chapters will be of little use to the man who desires knowledge on the essentials of transistor operation and basic circuit technique.

Furthermore, the 50 page specification section will be of very limited use to Australian readers.

This Third Edition published by the General Electric Company, Semiconductor Products, 1224 West Genesee St., Syracuse, New York, is priced at £1 Australian.

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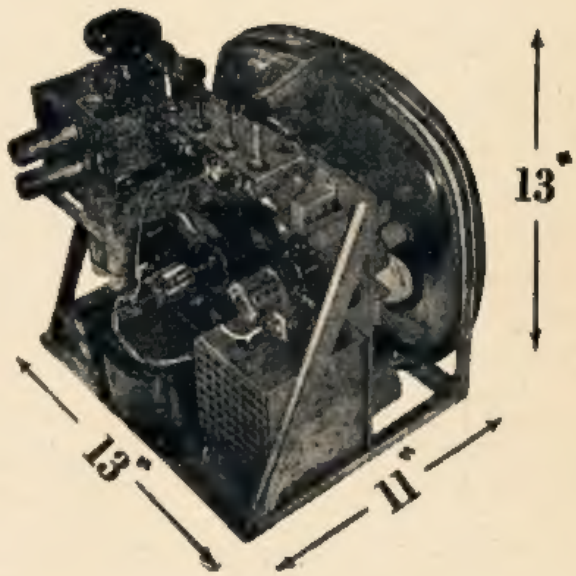

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THE GELOSO RECEIVER FRONT END UNIT

WHEN ever a new Amateur receiver hits the Australian market, it always creates a lot of interest and curiosity. In this case the interest is two fold, as R. H. Cunningham Pty. Ltd. have not only released a new receiver, the Geloso G209-R, but also in kit form the coil box, tuning condenser with dial and drive mechanism, aerial trimmer, oscillator trimmer, and a 4.6 Mc. output transformer of this receiver. This kit can form the basis of a good receiver, either as a converter fed into any receiver that tunes 4.6 Mc., or as a front-end for a home-brew i.f. strip, detector, etc., and audio.

The Publications Committee have recently had the opportunity of testing one of these kits which had been built into the converter unit described herewith. We must admit that this is one of the more pleasant duties associated with producing the magazine.

Of course the first question everyone will ask is just how well does it perform? Sensitivity figures have been published on the 209-R receiver and naturally these figures apply also to this converter. Unfortunately, figures of this kind cannot always convey just how signals sound coming through the speaker. After an extended test on ten metres (how does your receiver sound on ten?), we can definitely say that it is in the "hot" class. Conditions on the band were anything but good. However, the signals there stood out well with

Prototype of the Geloso Receiver Front End Converter Unit.
Controls (left to right): R.F. gain, tuning, band selector, aerial trimmer, h.t. switch.

little background noise. This test was made on a wire antenna and not a beam. Frequency stability was adequate for good s.s.b. reception on 10 and 15 metres. Naturally though, this is dependent on just how well you build this unit in, and how stable is the receiver the converter is fed into.

For the sideband enthusiasts the tuning rate will be of interest. The following figures apply to Australian frequency band allocations: 80 metres, 19 turns; 40 metres, 15½ turns; 20 metres, 26½ turns; 15 metres, 26 turns; 11 metres, 4 turns; and 10 metres, 32 turns.

The actual dial drive is one of the neatest ideas seen for a long time. The shaft from the knob is actually a 5 to 1 ratio planetary drive. This is then coupled to a 4-inch drum by means of a nylon cord. One small criticism of the tuning is the size of the knob. One about twice the diameter is needed to give the right feel.

We fed the converter into receivers ranging from a 122 set and a Type 3 to an AR88. Naturally the selectivity characteristics and gain varied from set to set, but overall performance was essentially the same with all.

To sum up, several of the committee members were heard to comment, "You can leave one in my shack any time."

Although only the component parts are available at present, a complete kit for the converter unit, including power supply, chassis, cabinet, etc., will be obtainable at a later date.

We are indebted to R. H. Cunningham Pty. Ltd. for the opportunity of testing this fine unit.

—PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE.

★

MANY readers of "Amateur Radio" have, during the past two years, built the famous Geloso Exciter units into a transmitter and, at reasonable cost, have obtained excellent results with a "professional" finish. Now available in this country is the Geloso Receiver Front-End Unit, which is as used in the G209-R Double Conversion Superhet.

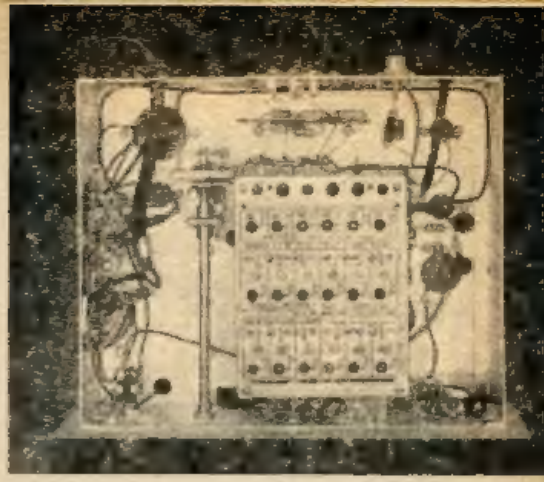
This unit consists of the following parts:—

(1) Coil unit—type 2619;
(2) Dial assembly—type 1649;
(3) Variable gang condenser—type 2791;
(4) I.F. Transformer—type 701/A;
(5) Aerial trimmer condenser—type 8475;
(6) Oscillator trimmer condenser—type 89173.

The coil unit itself is ready wired with valve holders, resistors, condensers, wavechange switching, etc., only requiring external connections for h.t., l.t., gang condenser, i.f. transformer, a.v.c. and aerial. The i.f. is at 4.6 Mc. bringing the unit on to almost any shortwave receiver, and each Amateur band is spread to give the following frequency coverage:—

10	Metres	28.0 to 30.0	Mc.	Band	1
11	"	26.0 to 28.0	"	"	2
15	"	21.0 to 21.5	"	"	3
20	"	14.0 to 14.4	"	"	4
40	"	7.0 to 7.3	"	"	5
80	"	3.5 to 4.0	"	"	6

A trimming adjustment is provided for every coil in the unit and is clearly marked with adjustment frequency figure. The unit can, if desired, be built directly into a receiver using a second mixer to convert to, say, 465 Kc., or may be assembled as a converter, and fed out at 4.6 Mc. to a receiver such as a BC348, BC342, or AR8.



The dial mechanism provides a 72 : 1 reduction from an epicylic motion with a nylon cord drive. The cord is spring loaded, giving positive action and preventing backlash. No cut-and-try method of adjusting the drive cord is necessary as the exact length is supplied, correctly terminated on the loading spring.

The size of the coil unit is approximately 5¼" x 4" x 3¾" deep and is designed for mounting below a chassis. The dial is 8¼" x 5" and the minimum panel height requirement for the assembly is 8¾".

THE CIRCUIT

This uses modern type valves—6BA6 (r.f. amplifier), 12AU7 (oscillator and buffer) and 6BE6 (mixer). One interesting feature is the employment of a double triode (12AU7) in the oscillator circuit. The first half is run as the oscillator and the second half as a cathode follower buffer stage. This prevents any pulling of the oscillator frequency by the aerial and mixer circuits.

Fig. 1 shows the complete circuit required to build a compact converter which will impart to an old receiver modern performance, with an excellent signal-to-noise figure of better than 6 db for 1 microvolt input.

The power requirement of the unit is 230 volts at 45 mA. with 150 volts and 6.3 volts a.c. of 1.65 amp. From Fig. 1 it will be seen that the 150 volt stabilised supply may be obtained from an OA2 valve.

A buffer stage (6C4) is included to provide a low impedance cathode follower output and permits a convenient connection to the antenna circuit of the following receiver by means of coaxial cable (maximum length, 80 inches).

An r.f. gain control is provided on the unit, consisting of a variable negative voltage of —1.7 to —20 volts.

An interesting feature of the circuit is the provision of an additional wafer at the rear of the coil unit for adjusting the screen voltage to the 6BA6 r.f. amplifier valve. It will be appreciated that the performance of most valves is better at 3.5 Mc. than at 30 Mc. and this ensures that the sensitivity of the unit is the same on every band, and is invaluable for correctly calibrating an S-meter.

MAKING THE COMPLETE CONVERTER

The design using the Geloso coil unit and dial assembly shown in the photographs was based upon a 18 s.w.g. aluminium chassis 10" x 8" x 3¾" deep and front panel of 11" x 9½". The coil

unit is mounted below chassis, cutouts are made for the valve-holder skirts to protrude through the top of the chassis. Holes are required for the coil unit connections to pass through the chassis to the gang condenser, mounted on top of the chassis.

The general layout of the other components can be seen in the photographs and their exact position can be determined by the user.

ASSEMBLY

First mount and wire all components with the exception of the coil unit, tuning condenser, dial and front panel. The epicylic drive can now be mounted on a bracket and before screwing the bracket under the chassis slip two turns of drive cord over the drive spindle and locate them around the thin section of the spindle, immediately in front of the brass bush. Mount tuning condenser on feet and secure to top of chassis. Fit in coil unit and antenna trimmer on bracket under chassis. The remainder of the wiring can now be completed. The front panel can be secured in position and the dial mounted. Before fitting the escutcheon to the dial, mount the dial light assembly and push the pointer into position on the tuning condenser spindle. Make sure that the pointer is horizontal at just below 28.0 Mc. with the condenser vanes fully in mesh. Check that the dial drum is correctly located on the condenser spindle and that the pointer will turn 180°.

TESTING AND ALIGNMENT

Check all wiring and fit valves. Connect the output of the converter to the aerial input of the receiver and tune to 4.6 Mc. Connect the converter to mains and switch on.

At this stage it would be advisable to check voltage points in the converter. H.t. +230 v., stabilised h.t., screen 6BA6 network, and heaters.

All coil units are checked by the manufacturer before despatch and are usually not very far off. Alignment can best be accomplished by using a signal generator, but this is by no means an absolute necessity if a local transmitter can give a few "spot" frequencies on different bands—or a good station frequency meter is available. In the latter case, an aerial should be connected to the aerial socket in place of a signal generator.

Commence by feeding 4.6 Mc. into the converter and peaking the i.f. transformer, then adjust the 4.6 Mc. trap for maximum attenuation. The remainder of the alignment procedure is quite straight forward as all the spot alignment frequencies are clearly marked at their respective trimmers or coil slugs on the underside of the coil unit.

Alignment should be done with the antenna trimmer in the mid position.

A.V.C. CONNECTION

If the user so desires, a.v.c. from their existing receiver may be connected to the converter. This can be accomplished to give maximum results by retaining manual r.f. gain on the 6BA6 r.f. stage and applying a.v.c. to the 6BE6 mixer.

CONCLUSION

This new receiver front-end will improve the performance of many existing receivers. It combines the advantage of a double conversion circuit with improved signal-to-noise figures and increased sensitivity. The bandspread will really be appreciated by the operator with that good "surplus" receiver which lacks the bandspread on Amateur bands. So, with the availability of this unit, we can get performance at least equivalent to, if not better than, many modern communications receivers.

—H. V. Amor, VK3RD.

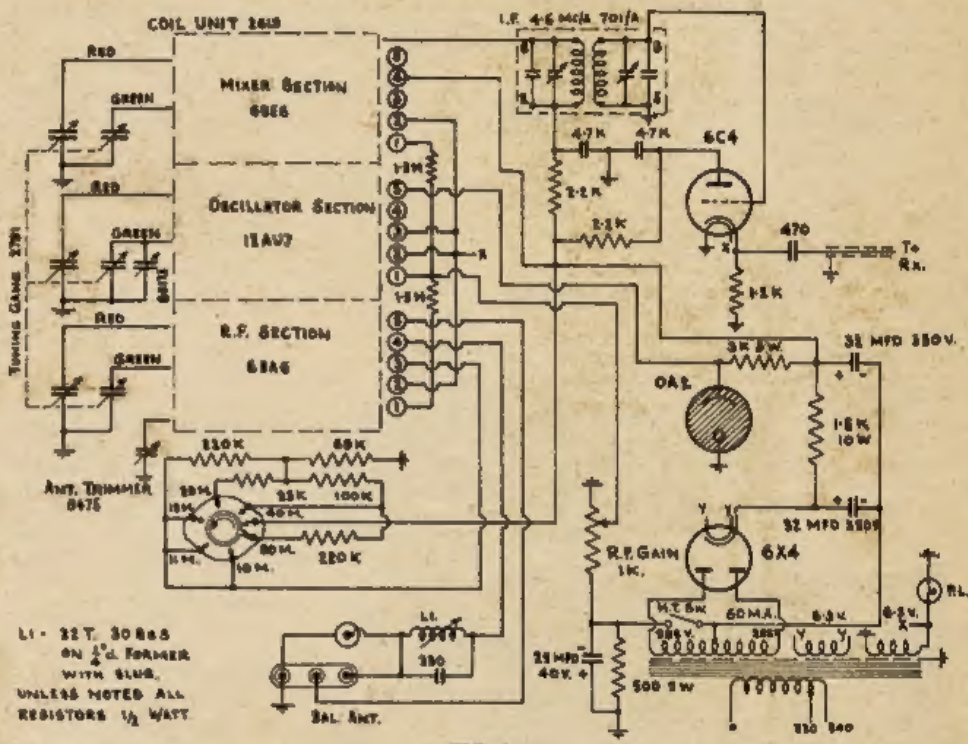


FIG. 1.

The modern practice of leaving the oscillator running during stand-by periods is a suggested amendment to the above circuit.

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The closing date for copy for the January issue is 1st of December.

The S-9'er Mark II.

THE magazine "CQ" in May 1956 carried an article on the S-9er, which used a 9-pin miniature t.v. cascode twin-triode, the 6BK7A, to replace and plug into the r.f. stage of any receiver using a 6SK7 or the like. This was a cathode coupled amplifier which gave excellent results noisewise, with some loss of gain and a few reports of instability.

"CQ" for May 1959, pages 44 and 45, introduced the S-9er, Mark II., written by K5JKX, which converts the pentode r.f. stage into the cascode the twin-triode tube was designed for. Gain in this case was claimed to be equal to the replaced pentode, in fact in some cases better, and the stability was quite good.

I made up both of these models and gave them a solid try-out, and without any doubt the Mark II. version more than lived up to the claims made for it. It has been tried in at least a dozen receivers, both commercial and home-brew, and the gain in at least two-thirds of them was increased by 6 db, and the improvement in signal-to-noise was immediately apparent on them all. Some instability was noticed in four of the receivers, but it was immediately cured by earthing the valve can, as suggested in the article.

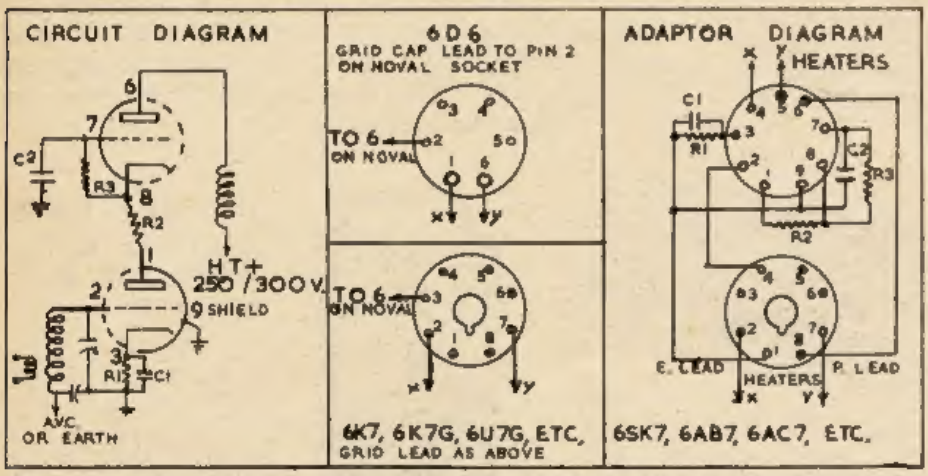
It will be noted from the circuit that the cathode of the first section is returned directly to ground through pin one of the octal-based socket, thus removing the r.f. stage of the receiver from the normal gain control line and converting the gain control into a purely i.f. gain control, resulting in still more signal-to-noise ratio improvement.

If manual control of the first stage gain is desired, resistor R1 and capacitor C1 can be omitted and a lead run directly from pin three of the noval socket to pin five of the octal base, which will retain the original r.f. cathode circuitry. I personally tried both these connections and felt that the difference, if any, was not worth bothering about, and therefore the saving of two components is worth considering.

Well, now the pretence is over. This is not a technical article in the true sense, it is simple a re-write of an article in "CQ" which is without doubt a winner and nothing now remains but to give a few helpful hints gleaned from my actual experience with the converter in the thought that it may help to answer any remaining queries that might be in your mind.

Not all twin-triode tubes are worth using in the converter, for example the 12AT7 or the 6J6, for obvious reasons. The 6BQ7A works OK but is a little down in gain compared to the others; again for obvious reasons. The article stressed the point that in all tests, best results were obtained using 250 to 300 volts on the plate and lower plate voltages reduced the efficiency, and was not recommended.

In one or two commercial receivers which have the S meter circuitry tied up in the screen circuit of the pentode r.f. stage in a balanced network arrangement, naturally the S meter readings go all haywire. In this case, the circuit was used in a preselector set-up with excellent results and is mentioned only as a suggestion.



Base and socket connections are bottom views. When replacing a 6D6, find which heater pin is earthed and connect to pin 9 on noval socket. The same applies to types 6K7G, 6U7G, etc., and for 6K7 metal, if pin 1 is earthed use this instead. Insulate all leads between noval socket and base with spaghetti sleeving.

Component values: R1—100 ohms ½w. carbon; R2—33 ohms ½w. carbon; R3—470K ohms ½w. carbon. C1 and C2—0.001 μF. disc.

Components of the Mark II. include three resistors, two capacitors, a tube socket, an adaptor base and of course the tube. Any of the cascode designed twin-triodes will work well in the circuit, such as the 6BK7A, 6BQ7A, 6BZ7, and the 6BS8. This latter tube gives the best results mainly because of its freedom from cross-modulation and its extra gain.

With respect to the circuit, whilst measurements will show the difference between a coil-neutralised cascode and one using merely a 33 ohm resistor between stages, no difference can be detected in on-the-air tests and for that reason and also to simply the adaptor, the resistor was used.

In closing, I would like to say that I don't want to talk you into making this converter up if you are satisfied with your present receiver's r.f. stage. If, however, you are looking for an improved signal-to-noise ratio, with no loss in gain, and a chance of some increase in gain, then this is it. The only catch to the whole set-up, as I see it, is whether or not you can get hold of a suitable tube. All of the tubes mentioned are listed in the latest tube manuals, but as they explain, that does not mean they are as yet available.

My thanks to K5JKX for a very interesting article and the opportunity to spend a number of pleasant hours testing the truth of his assertions.

—Warwick W. Parsons, VK5PS.

GENEVA REPORT

SINCE my last report to you I have every reason to believe that the delegations at the Administrative Radio Conference in Geneva have been working very hard in pursuit of satisfactory agreements to all the problems being raised by the various countries—and there are plenty of problems.

As I mentioned previously, a great amount of information from the Conference is of a sub judice nature and I must ask you—as Australian Amateurs and members of the Wireless Institute of Australia—to believe me when I say that everything possible is being done at Geneva by Amateurs representative of many countries to maintain the Amateur frequency allocations insofar as that is possible against the extreme pressure from the commercial interests

I can say this quite definitely, that the finalising of frequency allocations is a continuous process in which the entire spectrum is first of all reviewed in Committee Four (the Frequency Allocation Committee) and then sent to various working groups which study small portions, iron out differences and attempt to accommodate as many proposals as possible. From reading the pages of reports sent back to me from John Moyle, it is becoming increasingly evident that the pressures for more frequency space by all services in all countries is becoming greater as the Conference progresses and the full story will not be really known until the Conference is over and our representative returns to report personally to us.

It is quite useless, and most unwise, to make public a running statement on the progress of the various committees and working groups because the same ground is gone over many times and the decisions of any one group are often completely upset and re-opened at a later stage Often lines of thought develop into discussions of a highly confidential nature in which the most delicate balances and confidences are involved It is quite evident that the full picture will not be known until the end of the Conference, so it is not possible to forecast the final result or give final information at this stage

However, initial decisions indicate that Amateurs in Region III. will probably lose 100 kc. off the top end of the 3.5 Mc. band, but the resultant band 3.5 to 3.7 Mc. will be exclusively an Amateur assignment whereas before it was shared with fixed and mobile services

The 7 Mc. band is being hard pressed by all countries in all Regions for an exclusive Amateur assignment 7 to 7.1 Mc. and it is probably true to say that a footnote will be added that it is an exclusive assignment to the Amateur Service on a world wide basis and that countries will remove existing transmissions from this part of the spectrum. If this is the final result—and this is by no means certain—then we can expect to be in a better position than we were prior to the Conference.

An international telegram from John Moyle a few days ago stated that Australia has agreed to withdraw its proposal to reduce the 14 Mc. band currently used by the Amateur Service on a world wide basis. This is not a surprise because we forecast before the Conference commenced that it would quite possibly never get through the Geneva Conference and this was substantiated by members of the Frequency Allocations Sub-Committee at meetings which I attended with other members of the Federal Executive. As has been said so often during the past many months, the initial proposed frequency curtailments **were only proposals** and would have to be widely discussed by all countries before we could have lost them. Even now, the present position could change overnight, but it is heartening to know that at least initially Australia has agreed to withdraw its proposal regarding the most important DX band assigned to Amateurs.

Despite the pressure for frequency space in the bands between 3 and 30 Mc., there does not seem any likelihood that changes will be made to the present 21 Mc. band. The 28 Mc. band will also probably remain at 28 to 29.75 Mc. which is officially what Region III. has always had although the Australian Administration has permitted us to use up to 30 Mc. in the past.

As at the last report I received from Geneva, only preliminary discussions had taken place on the bands above 30 Mc. and there is nothing to report at this stage.

Looking at John's reports in retrospect, I am satisfied that the money raised to send our own representative to Geneva has been far from wasted, and the knowledge gained at a Conference of this nature will have been well worth the cost by the time the Conference concludes.

As John Moyle says, and I quote from part of one of his reports, "When extreme pressures are at work, particularly in the bands between 3 and 30 Mc., there isn't much sentiment where national interests are involved, and discussions frequently are converted into major political issues in the big plenary sessions. At the moment of writing there are more than 60 separate committees and groups functioning, and others are created and closed almost every day. The task of following even those in which we are mainly interested is very great, and it has been an education to me which I hope will be completely invaluable in helping us to understand and then handle our problems in the future."

You will recall from my earlier report to you that part of our brief for John Moyle was to investigate more fully the position of the International Amateur Radio Union today and what could be expected of it in the future. At a meeting of some 60 Amateurs, he had the opportunity to discuss the I.A.R.U. and reports that he made quite a long speech concerning Region III's. outlook and what should be expected of the Union during the next eleven years. John reports that he will have quite a lot to say about the I.A.R.U. when he returns.

I hope in the near future to be able to give you a more definite report on the probable outcome of the Conference where our bands are concerned. In the meantime I would ask you to try and appreciate the sub judice nature of proceedings at this stage and the danger of making public statements until confirmation of the final position is made known.

G. MAXWELL HULL,
Federal President, W.I.A.

EARLY COPY

The closing date for copy for the January issue is 1st of December.

"JUST LIKE 'QST' EXCEPT . . ."*

Some Hints on the Stabilisation of Tetrode and Pentode Amplifiers

EDWARD P. TILTON, W1HDQ

THE four words of our title are encountered almost daily in mail handled by the A.R.R.L. Technical Information Service. They are also voiced frequently by visitors to the A.R.R.L. Lab., who tell us their troubles with equipment they've been building. Often it turns out that instability trouble these fellows have is the result of common misconceptions as to right and wrong methods of bypassing and grounding in tetrode and pentode amplifiers.

We neither expect nor want everything built from "QST" and the Handbook information to be exact duplication of the original. To be of greatest value, equipment descriptions should be used for ideas to be incorporated in gear of your own design. If "QST" and Handbook articles were used only for exact duplication they would not be making the most of the time and money spent on them. The important thing is to know what to change, and what to leave as the original designer made it. Methods employed in bypassing and grounding should be in the latter category.

To some extent each new amplifier represents a design problem. We would not have you believe that every transmitter or converter built in the Headquarters lab. is stable right from the start. But from long experience we have become well acquainted with some of the more common forms of instability. These have all been discussed at one time or another, but a summary may still be in order, especially in view of the fact that assembly details we will be talking about often do not come through well in photographs. Even an experienced builder of Ham gear may find it hard to know just where to put a by-pass lead or a grounding lug, no matter how well the pictorial and descriptive details are set forth in print.

Certain tubes have a reputation of being hard to tame. The 807 was such a dog for many Hams for years, and the evil reputation it built up, largely unjustified, is now inherited (with even less justification) by the 6146. It is true that tetrode and pentode tubes, having very high power sensitivity, may require neutralisation, but more often than not the trickiness involved in getting an amplifier to operate stably is the result of violation, by the designer, of certain cardinal principles. If you yearn for the "good old days" of easily neutralised triode amplifiers it may be that you've been building in some troubles for yourself.

PUT THE SOCKET ABOVE THE CHASSIS!

Many a lab. headache has been relieved like magic by the simple expedient of taking out a socket that was mounted below the chassis and putting it on the tube side of the chassis on mounting plate. This became really important when we started building transmitters that had to work on many bands without readjustment of neutralisation. Cause of the oscillation trouble with sockets mounted under the chassis is often the long plate-cathode return. This return cannot be made effectively via screws going through the chassis. The actual path (and you can often trace it by chassis "hot" spots) is around the edge of the chassis, or through some large hole. Some considerable portion of the chassis thus becomes common to both plate and grid circuits, and the resultant feedback is difficult to neutralise out.

Models illustrating right and wrong methods for bypassing and grounding terminals of a 9-pin miniature socket. Both show Pins 4 and 9 grounded, with a cathode resistor and associated bypass capacitor connected to Pin 1. In the wrong approach, left, a wire is run from Pin 9 through the centre shield and Pin 4, to a grounding lug. The bypass is made from Pin 1 to the centre shield, making its path to ground common with other circuits. In the example at the right, the pins to be grounded and the ground lug itself are bent tightly against the cylinder and soldered in place. Bypass is grounded at the bottom of the lug.

This sort of thing may not be troublesome in an amplifier designed for a single band, though even here it may make the neutralisation job fussier than it should be. But in an amplifier for several bands the effect of coupling through common ground paths varies with frequency. Your amplifier requires neutralisation on some bands but not on others, or the degree of neutralisation cannot be set up right for several different bands. Having gone through this with more amplifiers than we care to recall, we now put the sockets atop the chassis **first**, instead of making ourselves an almost certain revamping job by mounting it in the "conventional" manner.

COOLING DOWN THE SCREEN

Once the socket is mounted above the chassis the method of bypassing is still important. The screen and cathode must be at zero r.f. potential or there's going to be trouble. The screen is the villian in some amplifiers that should be stable but aren't. To cool it off, bypass right at the screen terminal or terminals. If there is more than one screen pin, bypass each one separately right to the chassis, with no leads. Forget the old precept of a common ground bus, or a common grounding point. The chassis is the place to go with bypasses, and without any wandering!

Ordinary bypassing may be ineffective in v.h.f. amplifiers, especially for 144 Mc. and higher. Then some form of screen tuning becomes necessary. Examples will be found in all recent editions of the Handbook. Such circuits usually involve series-resonating the screen circuit to ground, to provide a path of lowest possible impedance.

Occasionally you will find a circuit in "QST" or the Handbook in which no screen bypass is shown. These bring inquiries as to whether an error was made, and what value bypass should be used. Diagram readers are accustomed to seeing screens bypassed, and they can't imagine it not being done. Sometimes the circuit is a frequency multiplier, and in that case it doesn't make much difference whether the screen is cold or not. Why waste a capacitor, in that event? At 220 and 420 Mc. several factors come into play that may make screen bypassing unnecessary. The screen-to-ground capacitance within the tube may be enough to do the job at these frequencies. More important, degeneration due to cathode lead inductance, and loading of the tuned circuits by the tube, may cut the power sensitivity of the amplifier to the point where self-oscillation is not the problem it is on lower bands.

THE HOT CATHODE

Oscillation troubles are often built into tetrode or pentode amplifiers by inserting a keying jack in the cathode lead. The cathode has to be cold, too; perhaps even more so than the screen. In the 50 and 144 Mc. exciters in the Handbook you'll notice that the 50 Mc. job has cathode keying; the 144 Mc. one does not. That's because small disk ceramics (probably the best v.h.f. bypasses available at low cost) are effective at 50 but not at 144 Mc. That 144 Mc. cathode (2E26 or 6146) could probably be cooled down by some special circuit tricks, but we found it simpler to resort to some other method of keying, and left the cathode grounded by the shortest possible lead, in the rig for the higher band. Grounding each cathode lead separately may be desirable with the 2E26 and 6146

* Reprinted from "QST," March 1959.

BYPASSES THAT DON'T BYPASS

Oscillation troubles are not confined to transmitters, as any v.h.f. converter builder knows. And oscillation is not always where you'd expect to find it—in a pentode or neutralised-triode amplifier stage. We've seen quite a few "grounded-grid" stages that took off all over the place because the grid was not actually **grounded**. In several instances a wire lead was run from the cylindrical shield in the centre of a miniature socket to a ground lug at one or both sides of the socket. Bypass capacitor leads were connected to the cylinder, or to some point along the wire, rather than to the lug, **right at the chassis.**

The effect of r.f. voltage building up on a ground lead, perhaps no more than a quarter inch long, can be observed by running the stage in an oscillating condition, and then probing for hot spots with a pencil lead. If the stage is in a receiver, you can listen for scratching sounds. If it is a transmitter, watch the grid current in the offending stage.

Tube socket with built-in grounding ring and four lugs (left) is an invitation to trouble due to common ground paths. Flange between lugs may not contact chassis, in which case connections made to lugs have long path to ground. Socket at the right necessitates grounding to chassis or to lugs under mounting nuts, making it possible to avoid common ground paths.

In a 50 Mc. transmitter built for the 1959 edition of the A.R.R.L Handbook we ran into trouble with a 6146 stage that refused to neutralise We tried several methods; each would come close, but not quite do the job. In this rig we had abandoned the principle discussed earlier and mounted the tube socket below the chassis, primarily to save over-all height. With just one band to worry about, we felt the calculated risk worth taking.

In this amplifier both the screen and cathode leads were hot. Touching the screen or cathode terminals caused a flicker in the small amount of grid current that persisted in the 6146 stage, when drive was removed. In desperation we pulled out the socket and put a different type in its place—and at once the capacity-bridge neutralisation system we'd been wrestling with for days neutralised the stage out as easily as anything we've ever worked with.

The cause of all the trouble was the same old bugaboo, common ground paths, in a somewhat different form. The socket was a popular make having a metal grounding ring in a slightly different plane from the ears that mount the socket to the chassis. There are four lugs extending from the ring that are intended for grounding points. They may be suitable for that purpose at lower frequencies, but in a v.h.f. amplifier the lugs and ring provide a built-in common path for the circuits grounded or bypassed thereto. We've had at least two hassles with sockets of this type in recent lab. experience, but this writer will have no more!

Quite a bit of new manufactured gear employs a device that was all but discarded years ago, the so-called wafer socket. In the days of the "low-loss" insulation craze we looked down our noses at anything but ceramic insulation. Now we know that most other insulating materials are good enough, at least in low-voltage applications, and that the physical construction of the socket as to lead lengths may be more important. The flat wafer socket has a distinct advantage in this respect. If the chassis is a material that will take solder readily, socket terminals to be grounded can be soldered directly to the chassis, resulting in much lower lead inductance than is possible with bulkier ceramic or moulded bakelite sockets.

From all this discussion it can be seen that there are more causes of instability than first meet the eye. With triodes the main cause of oscillation is the considerable grid-plate capacitance of the tube or tubes. We neutralise this out with a capacitance that is approximately the same as the tube grid-plate capacitance, feeding back energy 180 degrees out of phase with that fed through the tube, and the job is done. The power sensitivity of triode tubes is low, so the neutralisation process is fairly routine. (We didn't think so back in the '30s, however!)

Tetrodes and pentodes have additional tube elements that keep their grid-plate capacitance at a very low value, usually under 0.1 pF. This in itself is seldom enough to cause trouble, but our layouts usually add other kinds of feedback. If we don't shield or otherwise isolate the input and output circuits there may be fairly large values of coupling between them, by inductive or capacitive means. Power leads, unless carefully decoupled, may provide common coupling. But even a perfectly shielded amplifier with adequate lead filtering can still have common coupling between the input and output circuits through the ineffective bypassing and grounding techniques outlined above.

And when all these factors are taken care of we still have parasitic resonances—but this started out to be a discussion of bypassing and grounding techniques. Squelching parasitics is another story, and one that is already covered adequately in the Handbook.

TECHNICAL TOPICS

NETTING

HEARD on the 7 Mc. band quite frequently: "This is VK3XYZ standing by for VK5YZK". VK5YZK does not reply. "Another transmitter failure" we think. But no. Re-tuning we find VK5YZK 5 kc. higher in frequency.

Apparently in making contact one of these two stations has failed to net accurately and the result is:—

1. They are occupying two channels instead of one in a crowded band.
2. Their contact may be broken up by a third station coming up on the temporarily vacant channel of the station listening.
3. In replying off-frequency, one station may have inadvertently dropped on an adjacent channel in use by a weaker station.

No good at all.

But why and how do they do it? My guess is that either:

1. They switch on the whole transmitter to net, thus blocking the receiver for 10 kc. either side and tune the v.f.o. until the blocked bandwidth straddles the frequency they wish to net, or
2. They net by tuning the v.f.o. dial to the same frequency read on the receiver dial.

The generally accepted accurate method of netting is to switch on only the oscillator tube of the v.f.o. or such low power stages that the signal can be heard in the receiver without blocking it and zero-beat it with the signal of the station being received. It may happen then that when the final stage comes on, it pulls the oscillator to a new frequency, but if this causes more than a hundred cycles or so change, then an additional isolating stage is required in the v.f.o.

The necessary switching arrangements to bring in the oscillator separately are not difficult to design, but there are a few catches. At the first attempt at my station, switching on the oscillator plate also brought on the screen of a later stage without the plate of that later stage and this does not tend to long life of tubes

A method of checking whether the oscillator is pulled when the final comes on is as follows: First, listening in the receiver, zero-beat the frequency meter-monitor to the oscillator signal. Then switch on the final and listen in on the monitor to see whether it is still zero-beat.

—J.A.G.

I.T.U. FUND DONATIONS

Donations to the I.T.U. Fund closed on 31st July, but some more donations are still being received. All donations are welcome as our objective of £2,500 was not quite reached although being very close to it. Federal Executive wish to express their very sincere and grateful thanks to all who contributed in any way. Many subscribed two and three times and indicates the enthusiastic support this appeal received.

Our representative, Mr. John Moyle, is now in Geneva and is at present representing the cause for which this appeal was made—the Australian Amateurs' interests. Although the results of this representation may eventually appear to be obscure on the face of things, our resultant knowledge of the conducting of such Conferences and the contacts made there will be immeasurable.

The great lesson from this appeal is that when the Amateurs of Australia realise an ideal is worth fighting for, they will give their support to the cause. F.E. once again extends its thanks to each contributor and to the many officers in Divisions who gave their time and energies to administer the fund.

The list below acknowledges the contributions received to the 20th September:

£33/17/0: New Zealand Amateur Radio Transmitting Society

£12/4/0: North Coast Zone, N.S.W Division

£10/10/0: J. Clarke, VK2DZ.

£9/10/0: Rockhampton Amateur Radio Club; North Western Zone, Tasmania

£8/0/0: R. J. Smith, VK2ARD; K. O'Rorke, VK3AKR; O. W. Guy, VK3ZGI; H. A. Stowe (N.S.W.)

£3/15/0: J. R. T. Matthews (N.S.W.)

£3/3/0: L. J. Cass, VK2MU, A. R. Llewellyn, VK2AH, E. R. Chippindall, VK4XR, D. C. Price, VK4PG; W. J. Brimblecombe, M.H.R. (Qld.)

£2-£3: J. E. Hills, VK2AJH (£2/18/0); Tasmanian Division £2/12/0); W. E. Olsen (W.A.) (£2/10/0), Short Wave Group, Victoria (£2/8/0)

£2/2/0: R. Richardson, VK2ALR, J. B. L. Watt, VK2OV, J. Vesper, VK2PV; G. J. Boyd, VK2AML; K. N. Greenhalgh, VK2KG, L. W. P. Smith, VK2AWS; L. L. McInnes, VK3AMK; Dr. A. F. Taylor, VK3AT; K. M. Cocking, VK3ZFQ; K. Grice, VK4DG; C. R. J. Paton, VK4PT; G. R. Andersen, VK5GA; R. James (N.S.W.)

£2/0/0: C. Croke, VK2MN; D. Andrews, VK2AWZ; J. W. Porter, VK2AXP; N. McNabb, VK2ZCN, C. T. Ferris, VK4TW; J. Dalstead, VK9JD; J. Murray (N.S.W.).

£1/10/0: J. Squires, VK6JS.

£1/1/0: M. Bested, VK2AEB; G. Lee, VK-2AGD, R. Patterson, VK2AJW; J. Wood, VK-2GG, L. Mashman, VK2OB; N. Carpenter, VK2RK, H. Lapthorne, VK2HL, R. Baty, VK-2ANB; N. Gough, VK2NG, H. Whyte, VK2AHA, E. Kenny, E. Sneddon, A. Hardy, Blue Mountains Club (N.S.W.)

P. Ryan, VK3AZR; R. Jones, VK3RJ; G. Baty, VK3AOM; N. Town, VK3ANK, C. Day, VK3GY, J. Occolowitz, VK3ZAI, F. Westcott, VK3ED, W. Hewitt, VK3PH.

H. Kinzbrunner, VK4HK, W. O'Donnel, VK-4ZBE; J. Hayden, VK4ZBV; L. Salter, VK4XS; Rev. R. Delbridge, VK4RJ; A. N. Brooks (Qld.).

C. Elsbury, VK6JE; H. Wells (W.A.); R. Read (Darwin); T. J. McKenzie, ZL3RK.

£1/0/0: E. Smyth, VK3AJS; N. Smith, VK-2ANA; G. Connolly, VK2ARR; H. Oakes, VK-2FA; A. Williams, VK2FH; L. McLoughlin, VK2GV, E. Clare, VK2ZEC, R. Luther, VK-2ZEL, R. Butler, VK2ZFB, R. Neurath, VK-2ZJN; N. Hansen, VK2XY, W. Evans, VK2AWE; P. Corlis, VK2ANG, L. MacDonald, VK2WU, R. Greame, VK3AFP, D. Kirby, VK2ALX; L. Baxter, VK2AMB, J. Gutherlet, VK2AQG, B. Foster, VK2AWF, L. Meyers, VK2KS, A. Williams, VK2ZAL; R. Ruff, VK2ZAO; J. Ashley, VK2ZEA, D. Sidey, VK2ZES, E. Matthews, VK2ZEM, J. Rugg, VK2ZJR, K. Howard, VK-2AKX; D. Wilson, VK2DW; R. Murray, VK-2AAI, J. Clarke, VK2CF; F. Cross, VK3FX; E. Audley, R. Brown, J. Clode, M. Gascoine, R. Gilbert, G. Lezninsky, R. Smyth, E. Williams (N.S.W.); W. Welley, VK2AZW.

J. Rogers, VK3TO; V. Macey, VK3AZA; L. Simmons, VK3LV, R. Elkin, VK3PE, E. Blackmore, VK3TG, L. Hoobin, VK3VH, C. Bird, VK3——; K. Hughes, VK3ZHH, J. Hallyburton, VK3APR, L. Powers, VK3APS, A. Berry, VK-3CZ, C. Yandell, VK3ZIY, A. Oakes, VK3AWO, A. Stebbing, VK3ZGD; C. Marley, R. Winter, P. Pettigrew, A. Westcott (Vic.)

C. Adeville, VK4CE; C. Bahr, VK4BQ; M. Oburtill, VK4OM; A. Loveday, VK4ZBI; C. Cogzell, VK4CI, J. Mermingham, VK4BI; H. Hewitt, VK4PD.

R. Grundy, VK5BG; G. Cameron, VK5EC; M. Millowick, VK5MS; L. Lawton, VK5OG; C. Taylor, VK5ZBD, J. Combe, VK5JY; J. Badenoch, VK5LB; S. Gabb, VK5ZBS; G. Gormly, VK5ZGA, K. Minchin, G. Taylor (S.A.)

J. Burrows, VK6ZBU, B. Hudson, VK6BH; W. Hayman, VK6GH; J. Tapper, VK6RJ; P. Roberts, VK6XR, T. Gardner, VK6GY; H. Cole, VK6DC, C. Jaeschke, VK6CJ, H. Hughes, C. Patchett (W.A.)

W. Nickols (Tas.)

Less than £1: H. Hanson, VK2AHH (18/-); W. Mill, VK2AHV (10/-); D. Pearsall, VK2ASA (10/-); E. Bailey, VK3BB (10/-); D. Sidey, VK2ZES (10/-); K. Collins, VK2ZFC (10/-); C. Barwick (17/1), P. Hall (10/-); J. James (10/-), D. Morris (5/10), T. Rothwell (10/-) R. Satchell (15/-), G. Sutherland (5/-), J. Gray (10/-) (N.S.W.)

W. Hanson, VK3AHZ (10/-); G. Lane, VK-3ZBN (10/-), A. Brown (10/-), I. Johnston (10/-), C. Buckley (7/-) (Vic.)

B. Pooley, VK5BP (10/-), G. Lucas, VK5LL (10/-), J. Gluyas, VK5ZAZ (10/-), J. Martin (10/-), R. Bamford (10/-), D. Gothard (17/6) (S.A.).

The total contributions to 20th September are **£2,415/18/2.**

EDITORIAL

(Continued from Page 1)

other hand the Amateurs should expect the co-operation of the t.v. viewer in eliminating interference which, in other than perhaps fringe areas, should be relatively simple if the Amateur transmitter is operating correctly. Therefore public relations is the most vital key to the problem as we see it, and it is up to every Amateur who becomes involved in t.v.i. cases to remember first and foremost the Amateur's Code.

This won't always be easy for we are experienced, from the early broadcasting days, with the attitude adopted by some members of the public. But we must look always first at their point of view and in a gentlemanly way see what can be done about it.

Currently some t.v. viewers suffering interference from Amateur stations neither approach nor permit the Amateur to carry out the necessary tests to eradicate interference, nor do they approach the Radio Interference Branch of the Postmaster-General's Department. They write or call directly on their local Member or a Minister himself. The result can be both swift and sure . . . the Amateur will be told to stay off the air during t.v. hours. It's happened in other countries, so it's nothing new in the Amateur service.

Unfortunately, the Amateur doesn't always know he is causing interference, particularly where the t.v. viewer will not co-operate, and he will be sometimes blamed for interference even when he is not on the air or hasn't been operating during t.v. transmission hours anyway. Of course, it's not fair! But that's the problem you are going to come up against. So what to do about it?

First and foremost, remember the Amateur's Code in dealing with the public. Secondly, see for certain that your transmitting equipment is not at fault in any way whatsoever. Thirdly, when co-operation is forthcoming from the t.v. viewer, see that your tests are carried out during test pattern transmission time and not during programme time; in this way you will not interfere with other viewers in the same area even if your immediate t.v. viewer is co-operating with you.

In the Divisions of the Institute, T.v.i. Committees will be formed where they don't already exist and they will be asked to forward complete details of all interference problems to the Federal Executive. The Federal Executive will suggest to the Postmaster-General's Department that a committee be formed representing all frequency users involved in t.v.i., manufacturers of t.v. receivers, and other electrical equipment guilty of interference if this is possible.

Remember the Amateur's Code.

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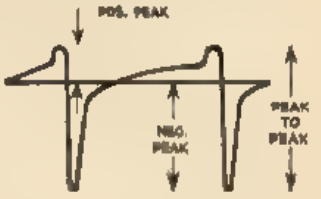

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PREDICTION CHART, NOV. '59

CORRESPONDENCE

Any opinion expressed under this heading is the individual opinion of the writer and does not necessarily coincide with that of the publishers.

S.W.L's. IN VK6

Editor "A.R.," Dear Sir,

I feel I must correct any wrong impression created by Mr Hardwicke's letter in "Listener Notes," Sept. "A.R.," re listeners in VK6.

Listeners in VK6 may gain the equal of Associate membership of the VK6 Division by joining the Short Wave Group of W.A. which is a member club of the W.I.A. (VK6 Div.) The annual sub. of 27/6 includes "A.R." (12/-) and full use of QSL facilities is granted. An Official Number WIA-L6 is issued on payment of the sub., which is sufficient to give the listener official status in any contest for which he may enter. The above conditions were agreed to by Mr Hardwicke (President of the Group) at a meeting with Institute representatives before affiliation took place.

Listener-members enjoy the same facilities in the W.I.A. as I, a full member, enjoy, except that they have no vote in an ordinary Institute meeting. They do, however, hold meetings as a separate group.

Fees in this Division are: Full members, 35/- per annum, Associates, 30/-; Listeners, 27/6.

Will someone please enlighten me as to what way we are falling down on our job of catering for s.w.l's. in the West? What further "official recognition and privileges" do listeners in VK3 enjoy?

—R. ELMS, VK6BE.

P.S.—Incidentally, I am no longer Secretary of this Division, and the above letter should not be regarded as being the official view of VK6 Council. I was, however, one of those responsible for drawing up the conditions of affiliation.—R.E.

R.D. CONTEST

Editor "A.R.," Dear Sir,

I think we all, whether listeners or operators, enjoy the R.D. Contest. We have a good old get-together, contact all our mates, or those chaps in other States whom we hear working DX, and in general the Contest in its present form is an event to be looked forward to and entered in the spirit which it is intended. But to suggest, as VK7ZZ has done, that the Contest be divided into two parts, is, in my opinion, most unnecessary. The c.w. section is not patronised to any extent and the average Amateur does not wish to use this form of communication, that is unless conditions make it necessary.

I think, Ian, you would find that the phone section would be patronised by the present regular contest men and the c.w. section would be virtually eliminated. To me there seems to be no point in altering the present set-up; it is quite adequate. To bring in a separate c.w. event, which I admit would possibly ensure all participants getting a few more c.w. contacts than at present, would mean settling down to another 24 hours of activity, and this in the middle of winter is something which I for one would not be in as a listener or operator. The whole section would be treated as a separate contest by the chaps concerned, and just take a look at the Field Day entries to see the general attitude to Contests other than the main R.D. which appears to be the phone section.

I am strictly a c.w. man myself and when I get on the air later this year will be using that mode of transmission. However, I am not blind to the attitude of many of our members as far as code is concerned. It is not used, not wanted, and considered out-dated by so many of the members that to save all concerned a lot of trouble I say, "Leave the R.D. Alone."

—D. GRANTLEY, WIA-L2022.

A NEW SYSTEM

Editor "A.R.," Dear Sir,

I think the constant battle for DX confirmation has gone on long enough; it has always been a wonder to me that there has not been some better scheme put into use. Let me say here, that I am only concerned with proof of a contact and not the collecting of QSL cards. That is a separate subject on which I venture no suggestions.

The confirming of all contacts is both expensive and time consuming. So much so, that I believe it limits the time that can be spent on the air by any rare DX station, unless he has a full-time secretary and a concession with the postal authorities.

It is not necessary to go on giving examples of the inadequacies of our present system as any DX operator undoubtedly knows all the pitfalls.

I believe that the adoption of a system, like I have in mind, would be a great help in clearing up all these problems.

My suggestion is that all stations keep a confirmation log and when a station asks for confirmation, it is entered while the QSO is in progress. Then when the sheet is completed it be sent to the A.R.R.L., or like body, for filing. When application is made for DXCC or similar awards, it would be a simple matter of cross checking. Possibly there could be a certificate issued on request, showing a list of your valid contacts. This could be covered by some small charge. This certificate should be accepted anywhere in the world as proof of a contact.

Well that's it. I realise there are numerous details in this system that would have to be overcome and many ways that the checking and filing could be done, but I think, once it was given some round-table discussion and got working, it would be a great asset to everyone.

—TOM TALBOT, VK6TH.

AMATEUR CALL SIGNS

FOR MONTHS OF JULY, AUGUST

NEW CALL SIGNS

VK—

New South Wales

2AP—A. P. Reynolds, 11 March St., Richmond.
2GR—K. C. Mattei, 16 Albany St., Coffs Harbour.
2KK—K. E. McDonald, No. 36(F) Wing, R.A.A.F., Richmond.
2OX—V. E. Tierney, 6 Beach Rd., Edgecliff.
2PO—R. A. Rocks, 7 Wheeler St., Carlton.
2UF—W. N. Barnier, 6 Bonner Ave., Manly.
2VV—R. M. Marsden, 43 Houston Rd., Kingsford.
2AIP—2 Division Signal Regiment, Army Wireless, Training Depot, Park Rd., Paddington.
2AIX—R. M. Harnett, C/o. O.T.C. Radio Station, Bringelly.
2AKB—J. A. Bonnington, 38 Eloura Rd., Avalon Beach.
2ALS—R. R. Longworth, 1 Holdsworth Ave., Wallstonecroft.
2AQM—J. T. Milton, Flat 1, Cr. Brown & Markham Sts., Armidale.
2AXB—E. Carruthers, Station "Headingly," The Esplanade, Elizabeth; Postal Box 1189, G.P.O., Sydney.
2AWV—P. C. C. Way, Flat 2, 132 Forsyth St., Wagga Wagga.
2AYZ—R. J. Spratt, 192 Yambil St., Griffith.
2ZAM—H. F. McTeigue, 65 Clanalpine St., Mosman.
2ZBC—B. P. Cleaves, 21 Binalong Rd., Pendle Hill.
2ZBK—G. K. Batley, 16 Gazu Rd., West Ryde.
2ZDD—V. Molesworth, 37 Jersey Rd., Woollahra.
2ZHP—H. E. Jones, 7 Prospect St., Waverley.
2ZKO—K. V. Outten, 2 Lily St., North Ryde.
2ZLM—B. Olliver, 8 Edward St., Oatley.
2ZLP—D. L. Price, 238 Rusden St., Armidale.
2ZMH—M. H. Wilson, 71 Rainbow St., Kingsgrove.
2ZOA—W. P. Harmon, 63 Mount St., Coogee.
2ZOK—K. E. Oakley, 75 Grafton St., Goulburn.
2ZPM—D. R. Stokes, 40 The Battlements, Castlecrag.
2ZRJ—R. Jurys, 53 Kangaroo St., Manly.

Victoria

3IQ—J. H. Smith, 83 Bindi St., Glenroy.
3OQ—L. R. Williams, 16 Rosanna Ave., Carnegie.
3QF—G. Stanton, 155 Kilby Rd., East Kew.
3APU—E. W. Burrell, Radio Aus., Shepparton.
3APZ—R. A. Nye, Radio Australia, Shepparton.
3AXE—G. L. Evans, 114 Nelson St., Nhill.
3ZAQ—R. Bennett, Skinners Rd., Warrigul.
3ZCX—C. R. Enery, 3 Sydare Ave., Chadstone.
3ZEG—T. S. Gray, 87 Doncaster Rd., North Balwyn.
3ZID—R. A. Dobson, 6 Wood St., Mooroopna.
3ZJC—J. F. Chambers, 13 Keith St., Mordialloc.

Queensland

4DS—D. R. Sneddon, Willis Island.
4DT—D. A. Fryer, 52 Cross St., Fairfield.
4SI—A. H. Sandilands, Station, O.T.C. Radio Station, Thursday Island; Postal: C/o. Royal Hotel, Thursday Island.
4TM—T. E. Meredith, 17 Davidson St., East Ipswich.
4VK—S. W. Grimsley, Station: North Rd., Beechmont, Postal: Charles St., Tweed Heads.
4WA—W. J. Barker, 14 Whish St., Windsor.
4ZCG—B. W. Bartlett, 35 Woodville Place, Annerley.
4ZCK—R. W. J. Hazell, Station: 70 Burton Rd., Hawthorne; Postal: C/o. Supervising Engineer, Radio Installations, G.P.O., Brisbane.
4ZCR—I. L. Boyce, 41 Ryland St., Grovely.
4ZFB—F. J. Beckett, 588 Flinders Pde., Brighton.

South Australia

5AH—R. C. Richards, 11 Whinham St., Prospect.
5AY—J. E. Davey, 36 Ackland Ave., Clarence Gardens.
5AZ—B. E. Edwards, Wokurna.
5BP—B. R. J. T. Pooley, 13 Spruance Rd., Elizabeth East.
5FL—F. R. Lashmar, 92 Fletcher Rd., Largs Bay.
5FS—J. L. Guthberlet, Mareham Rd., Strathalbyn.
5GQ—J. A. Hayward, 19 Phillip Highway, Elizabeth.
5GU—H. M. Meyer, Radio Workshop, R.A.A.F. Base, Darwin.
5JM—J. S. Danzic, Station: Knott St., Port Lincoln, Postal: P.O. Box 36, Port Lincoln.
5JX—M. J. Dew, 28 Norman St., Undervale.
5NZ—L. A. Lawson, 282 Anzac Highway, Plympton.
5OF—D. W. Averd, Mobile in South Australia (except Woomera area); Postal: C/o. De Havilland Aircraft Pty. Ltd., Box 1686, G.P.O., Adelaide.
5SK—S. S. St. George, 59 Crozier Ave., Colonel Light Gardens.
5TC—C. T. Rylatt, 10 Willow Ave., Findon.
5WD—R. A. Warner, 4 South Esplanade, Glenelg.
6ZW—M. H. Bone, 1 Dean Grove, Marryatville.
5ZCH—K. V. Hanson, 28 Langford Ter., Salisbury North.
5ZCN—J. T. Hart, 16 Nunyah Ave., Parkholme.
5ZCO—B. J. Southcott, 248 Beamont Rd., Beaumont.
5ZCQ—G. M. Taylor, 16 Fairmont St., Black Forrest.
5ZCS—B. J. Purvis, 15 Main Ave., Frewville.
5ZCT—M. R. Burford, 85 Belair Rd., Panchito Park.
5ZDW—B. M. McDonald, Base Squadron, R.A.A.F. Darwin.
5ZEF—I. B. Fraser, Station: Russell Ter., Kilkenny; Postal: Box 280D, G.P.O., Adelaide.

Western Australia

6RG—R. E. A. Grigson, 107 The Strand, Bedford Park.

Tasmania

7AO—R. K. Emmett, 6 Haig St., Lenah Valley.
7ZAR—R. A. J. Reynolds, St. George's Rectory, Battery Point.

Territory of Papua and New Guinea and Other Islands

9MV—V. E. Mathew, Christmas Island, Indian [redacted].
9TK—Rev. T. J. Keller, Catholic Mission, Kuru, New Ireland.

Antarctica

0GB—I. G. Bird, Mawson.
0IB—I. K. Black, Macquarie Island.
0IT—I. N. Thomas, Macquarie Island.
0JM—J. D. Molle, Davis.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

VK—

New South Wales

2DR—N. Wilde, 153 William St., Bathurst.
2IN—R. C. Meadows, 3 Forteseque St., Chiswick.
2MK—L. A. Elphingstone, 34 Maccella St., Kingsgrove.
2QH—H. D. Howe, 50 McIntosh St., Gordon.
2RR—R. K. Try, Lot 4, Power St., Plumpton.
2YM—R. Hancock, 15 Boundary Rd., Pennant Hills.
2ZD—W. J. Leetch, 39 Cliff Rd., Epping.
2AAF—A. J. Fisher, 2 R.A.R., Holsworthy.
2AAR—E. J. Pickles, 611 Princes Highway, Kogarah.
2ACV—A. G. Mulcahy, 45 Louie St., Padstow.
2ADG—G. F. Griffiths, 8 Carrington Rd., Kempsey.
2ADO—D. Batley, 76 Gordon St., Manly Vale.
2AEM—A. E. Moralee, 635 Elmore St., Albury.
2AGE—G. A. Dowse, Pine Ave., East Ballina.
2AJM—A. H. Bull, 56 Koola Ave., Killara.
2APA—A. F. Ashby, "White Cottage," 14 Bilkurra Ave., Newport Heights.
2APN—C. Nash, 107 Wyandora Ave., Harbord.
2ARA—W. N. Short, 58 Auburn Rd., Auburn.
2ATU—E. M. Cragg, 435 Coal Point, via Toronto.
2AVJ/T—W. B. Jones, 25 Beach St., Blakehurst.
2AXM—G. B. McDonald, 9 Bell Ave., Lindfield.
2ZCG—J. W. H. Grace, 16 Bondel Ave., Gymea.
2ZCL—R. P. Lopez, Married Quarters, No. 537 Lighthouse Pde., Holsworthy.
2ZDS—W. A. Saggers, Flat 2, 8 Dundas St., Coogee.
2ZEA—J. W. Ashley, Byng St., Holbrook.
2ZJJ—J. Jeffrey, Doyle Lane, Muswellbrook.
2ZMB—B. J. O'Sullivan, 62 Kallet St., Kings Cross.

Victoria

3GK—S. C. McLean, 204 Balaclava Rd., Caulfield.
3HW—A. N. Horwood, 45 Edmonds Ave., Ashburton.
3JH—L. J. Richards, 1 Maria Ave., Nunawading.
3JV—A. C. Knight, 1 Photinia St., Doveton.
3KS—R. R. Prowse, 83 Brewer Rd., Bentleigh.
3KU—B. D. Clark, Station: P.M.G. Radio Receiving Station, High Park, Kilmore; Postal: P.O. Box 8, Kilmore.
3MJ—W. L. Matters, 24 Waiora Rd., Rosanna.
3OD—D. D. Watson, 5 Caerleon Court, Heidelberg.
3VK—M. F. Spiller, 11 Harrison St., Ringwood.
3AAM—A. H. Sengotta, 71 Burrindi Rd., Caulfield.
3ABX—V. D. Bond, 11 McKenzie St., Colac.
3ADG—G. W. Kidson, Rutland Ave., Mount Eliza.
3ADR—A. R. Roy, Flat 3, 648 High St., Armadale.
3AGE—M. G. Esam, 18 Crawley St., Warrnambool.
3AGH—T. E. Page, 27 Nolan St., Niddrie.
3AHJ—R. J. Harrison, 304 Waterloo Rd., Glenroy.
3AHW—A. W. White, 50 Ross St., Dandenong.
3AJJ/T—H. R. James, C/o. H. E. Masson, 56 Lower Dandenong Rd., Braeside.
3AMK—L. L. McInnes, 7 Gwenda Ave., Blackburn.
3APC—Moorabbin & District Radio Club, 17 College Grove., Black Rock.
3AWZ—W. M. Zimmer, 18 East India Ave., Nunawading.
3AYE—F. H. A. McClymont, 1 Everard Drive, Warrandyte.
3ZFI—K. G. Bridger, 132 Nott St., Port Melbourne.
3ZFK—D. J. Goss, 19 Fitzgibbon Crescent, Caulfield.
3ZFT—R. G. Terrill, 6 Clematis Ave., Wendouree.
3ZGS—M. Subocz, 126 Hill Rd., North Balwyn.

Queensland

4EP—E. J. Parow (Rev.), Borthwick St., North Ipswich.
4FE—A. R. Burton, Normanton.
4TY—N. R. W. Tyas, Fitzroy St., Warwick.
4UX—C. P. Singleton, 41 Parker St., Ayr.
4VE—E. V. Avenell, 25 Fourth Ave., Sandgate.
4XP—J. Thompson, Natural Bridge, via Nerang.

South Australia

5AV—A. E. V. Molineux, 7 Salrak Ave., Marion.
5FQ—B. A. Falk, 22 Forrest Ave., Hawthorndene.
5KR—V. M. Reeves, 2 Leicester St., Parkside.
5OX—J. Stewart, 38 Stephen Ter., Gilberton.
5PL—J. G. Porter, 21 Wangary Ave., Seaview Downs.
5TX—G. P. Tuck, Lot 21, Balmoral Rd., Dernancourt.
5YQ—E. A. Charles, 41 Opey Ave., Hyde Park.
5ZAN—M. J. Goodridge, 45 Prospect Rd., Prospect.
5ZCX—B. H. Wall, 324 Seaview Rd., Henley South.

Western Australia

6AT—A. T. C. Hanson, The Esplanade, Esperance.
6CJ—C. F. Jaescke, 46 Puralowe St., Mt. Hawthorne.
6EA—A. A. Entwistle, Lot 94, Wangalla Way, [redacted].
6FH—F. A. Hull, 17 Weld St., Claremont.
6KH—W. K. Hobby, 12 Batle St., Mosman Park.
6KJ—B. H. Gates, Station: 5 Drew St., Mira Mar, Albany; Postal: C/o. Gates Radio Sales & Service, Peel Place, Albany.

Tasmania

7DK—D. H. Kelly, C/o. Staff Quarters, Pontinna.

Territory of Papua and New Guinea

9GW—G. K. Williamson, Telegraph Office, Samarai.

CANCELLED CALL SIGNS

VK—

Australian Capital Territory

1VV—R. M. Marsden.

New South Wales

2GD—K. H. Hatton; 2LA—L. A. Lawson; 2MF—C. M. King; 2PQ—T. Armstrng; 2XM—W. H. Marshall; 2YD—W. S. B. Pettitt, 2AGU—H. C. Hatton, 2AOI—A. A. G. Parker, 2AOW—W. N. Short; 2AQG—J. L. Guthberlet; 2AYD—D. E. Evans, 2ZAW—P. Salinger.

Victoria

3NS—J. E. De Cure; 3WW—W. E. Boswell; 3ADF—J. G. Du Faur; 3AIC—W. R. Ion; 3AJC—J. G. Clay; 3AML—R. E. A. Grigson; 3ANE—R. R. Longworth; 3ASJ—J. G. Cunningham, 3AVE—E. V. Avenell; 3AWL—L. Western; 3ZAP—P. Woodruff.

Queensland

4AE—R.A.A.F. Radio Club; 4DE—B. R. J. T. Pooley; 4KN—C. F. Peddell, 4KR—C. C. E. Christensen; 4ZAB—T. E. Meredith.

South Australia

5BM—A. R. Matthews; 5CP—L. A. Lock; 5ZAH—R. G. Henderson, 5ZAT—H. McTeigue, 5ZBU—M. H. Bone.

Western Australia

6ZAI—A. J. McCarthy.
[redacted]
7KM—K. G. McCracken.

— . . . —

EARLY COPY DATE

So that this magazine can be printed prior to the printers closing down for annual holidays, all copy for the January issue is required at P.O. Box 36, East Melbourne, C.2, by 1st December.

Correspondents are reminded that the closing date for copy for other months is the 8th of the month preceding publication. Copy arriving after that date may not appear.

S W L

Maurice Cox, WIA-L3055
Flat 1, 37 Boyd Crescent,
Olympic Village, Heidelberg,
N.23, Victoria

Following interesting items are from Don Grantley, WIA-L2022.—

Card Swappers.—Two more overseas listeners anxious to swap cards with other listeners are John Dacoutros, Sliema, Malta; and Oscar Reyes, Caruen, No. 377 Vibora, Habana, Cuba. This card swapping is a very good way of getting to know more about the other fellow, and listening in other countries, but don't try sending your card through the Bureau, the QSL Managers have enough to do now.

DX. Don't waste a card on KLOK/MM as he won't QSL. ZD6DT, FB, FC, HJ, HN, JL, NJ and RM are the only licensed ZD6s. Radio Moscow operates a DX session on the first Sunday of each month at 0500 and 0350 GMT, but no further details available as yet.

4S7FJ will QSL 100 per cent. to all s.w.l reports, provided that they are accurate, and would also appreciate reports comparing his signal to other 4S7s—there are only four others on the island. His address is F/Sgt. Frank Johnstone, R.A.F. Katunayake, Ceylon. (Tnx Monitor.)

Don't be dismayed if cards are lagging from CE9AB, he can't answer reports before December, and requests cards to go via the Bureau.

Who is the smart guy signing 6K8GT on Nun Island on April 1st. Seems he caught a few of the I.S.W.L. boys.

SG1BQ on 20 s.s.b. from 1700 to 2359 GMT most evenings and at 2300 GMT on 40, wants reports and will QSL 100 per cent.

ZS5AIA wants reports on 28 Mc. and also is 100 per cent. QSL. QTH is George Eastland, Box 786, Springs, South Africa.

K6TQO Clare Spencer, P.O. Box 585, Redwood City, Calif., would appreciate a card from any s.w.l. who hears her, as would her OM, K6TQN.

QSL Cards.—Frank's remarks re accurate reports draws attention to the very poor reports which are sent out by some s.w.l's, and many transmitting Amateurs. There seems to be a lot of worthless cards going out from the "listeners, according to the remarks heard over the air, and seen in overseas radio magazines. Suggest a perusal of Eric Trebilcock's remarks on page 13 of the March 1956 "A.R." would be in order

Awards.—By the time these notes are read, the VK2 Division will be compiling the information on the new VK SWL Award. At the moment it is still in the talking stage, but several ideas have been put on paper and it is hoped to have something original in the way of an award to offer the world-wide fraternity of s.w.l's.

National Field Day.—I would like to add some words to those in Sept. "A.R.," but for the benefit of the listeners. In the past, listener sections have been rather poorly patronised, but we have ourselves to blame entirely. In 1958 there were six entries, five having under 36 points. The year before it seemed as though Mac Hilliard was the only entry. If we don't participate, we will find ourselves without an interest in the field day, and in this time of s.w.l. progress it would be a backward step. This is a contest which doesn't require a lot of thinking out beforehand, as does the R.D.

Images in Communication Receivers.—Many of us have image trouble in our receivers, particularly those chaps who have a certain brand of set on offer in fair supply at the present moment. Would like to draw your attention to an article in Monitor, July 1959, on the subject. Anyone wanting a copy of this inexpensive wave trap can have it if they care to write to WIA-L2022.

Interstate Contest Challenge—How about you chaps in VK3 challenging us VK2ites in the National Field Day?

NEW SOUTH WALES S W L GROUP

Barry L2069 has been doing some DX on the broadcast band. Barry told me the other day that a station in VK9 near 950 Kc. on Saturday night 2359 hours EST has a programme in which they give away a lottery ticket to people living at a distance from the tx. Since they are paying on distances of 50 miles or so, Barry's QSL should win the lot. Good hunting, Barry

Many of our members lent much of their gear for the W.I.A. display at the Chatswood Town Hall. It was held on Monday and Tuesday, 10th and 11th Aug., and was in connection with the Youth Festival Week of the Willoughby Council. Our thanks to all who helped.

Don L2022 reports that there is much good DX on 80 in the early morning. 40 at 0500 GMT is good when one can sift out the commercials.

It is nice to see the formation of a group in VK6. The best of luck to you over the other side of VK. Looks like we have some opposition in the contests. It would be nice to see some of the listeners in VK4 and VK7 form a group and enable us to have an Australian wide s.w.l. set-up. After all, many of tomorrow's Amateurs are today's s.w.l's.

Still have not recovered from the R.D. Contest. Let's hope there were a few good scores. I have had many inquiries about the rules as published in June "A.R." The fact that both calls can be logged, if they are Interstate, has not been made clear enough. Many have said that the example log given appears to show that only the call sign that makes the call can be logged. I hope the matter is cleared up in the rules for next year.

AMATEUR STEREOPHONIC TRANSMISSION

During September, Chris VK3AXU, whilst in QSO with VK3AGV, VK3II and VK2HN, successfully transmitted his voice stereophonically via Amateur Radio. Reports on the experiment showed that whilst Chris moved about the shack, this effect was well reproduced at the receiving station.

Chris is wondering if Gordon, Lee, Herb. and himself are the first Amateurs in the world to participate in a stereophonic sound experiment via Amateur Radio.

Chris and Gordon set up their equipment specially for the experiment, whilst Lee and Herb. listened in. Another achievement for the Victorian S.W. Zone!

John C. Pinnell, VK2ZR
15 Summit Avenue,
Earlwood. N.S.W.
Phone, UW 4248.

The general feeling of most Amateurs is that the bands were not so good for DX this month although at times things were really good. I did not do so well with contacts from all continents except Europe which was very easy to work from my location. I made 156 contacts with Europe which is a little higher than my usual monthly average, 15 and 20 metres being used.

Rare DX is hard to come by these days, and a bad thing on both 7 and 14 Mc. is the increased phone activity creeping below 7050 and 14100 Kc. And this often happens when the bands are quiet and there is plenty of space for phone up the band (2AMB)

Generally speaking, 14 Mc. phone band conditions have not much improved since last month, and practically all DX stations were worked after 10 p.m., this being the only time of the day I could hear 'em. On several occasions during the month, Aurora effects were noticeable, and erratic conditions resulted thereby. It is very noticeable that, as a rule, very strong signals are conspicuous by their absence, and this applies to the "kilowatt boys." The old reports that we were giving these last year (40 over 9) simply do not seem to appear now (3AOM)

NEWS AND NOTES

OK7HZ was in Lebanon during September signing OK7HZ/OD and by now should be in Syria where, it is understood, he will have no trouble obtaining an operating permit. He was unable to get a license while in Turkey.

After Syria, George plans to be in Saudi Arabia by the end of the year and, if possible, continue thence to Yemen. After that, the stops will be Iraq and Iran, and Afghanistan about April 1960.

9G1BQ has been active on 7060 Kc. s.s.b. during the week-ends.

SV0WB (W4SSG) will be leaving Rhodes early in December to return to the U.S.A. He is very active on 14 Mc. s.s.b.

From Jan Mayen, LA1NG/P is working c.w. and LA3SG/P is on s.s.b., and they will be there until the middle of next year. Mail service will be cut off during their winter months.

VQ8APB is working 14 Mc. a.m. phone from Brandon Islands which are located about 250 miles north north-west of Mauritius. It will probably be given separate country DXCC rating.

VS9AZA is a new one and claims to be located in Mukalla, a city in "Quati State," he says it might be counted as a new country. If not a new country, it will be counted as Aden.

DL9PF, whose recent trip to Andorra as PX1PF, made nearly 3,000 contacts. His QSLs should start to come through within the next few weeks. He plans another PX expedition for next year, possibly accompanied by DL7AH.

LA4PF/P, who was located on Hopen Island, Svalbard, has returned to Norway, and is answering all QSL cards as rapidly as possible.

ZD1FG has now left Sierra Leone and is returning to England. QSL to him via R.S.G.B.

Vatican City.—W9IOP will operate HV1CN during "CQ" C.W. DX Contest in November.

I5GN is active on phone around 2200z on 14334 Kc. crystal controlled.

VS9OM, from the Sultanate of Oman, is active on 21 Mc. phone. He can be raised by calling him on c.w. on his phone frequency and then switching to phone.

4S7FJ, well known DXer from Ceylon, who got his 25 watt s.s.b. on the air a few days ago, is now closed down as he is returning to England.

AC4AX is still in Lhasa and is about to return to the air with high power and a beam antenna. W6YY)

No records are available of the following calls being assigned, and are believed to be phonies: FP8BT, on 21 Mc; UR1LIID, on 14 Mc. c.w.; and APSB/YA. APSB says he did not work from YA. (W4FVR)

OY7ML, OY8RJ and OY2PF are active from the Faeroes Islands on 14 Mc. c.w. Times 1600-2100z and 0600-0800z in Sydney.

Some stations worth listening for on 14 Mc s.s.b. between 1700 and 2000h: I5GN, MP4BBW, 5A2TW, 5A3TA, GW3LLU, OQ5GU, VQ8EER GC3LXK, OK7HZ/OD, 9K2AL, KG1FD, 9G1BQ and EA2CA.

VK3ATM, Melbourne University Amateur Radio Club, is active on 15 and 80 metre phone (L3008).

ACTIVITIES

3.5 Mc. Phone.—L3006 ZL2AAX, 5Y, 2BT, RB, WR, 4BJ, GM, FK2AU

7 Mc. C.w.—2AMB· 4S7FJ* BERS195· JA-1LR, KH6CWQ, UA0FF, UA0FM.

14 Mc. C.w.—2AMB CM2QN*, FO8AC*, HB-9YJ*, KG1BL*, LZ1UR*, LA3SG/P (Jan Mayen), OZ1QM*, OZ3HW*, KM6BI*, PY1HQ*, TI1PZ*, VQ6WQ*, VU2BK*, YU3CI*, CO2ZS, CN8BP, CP3CN, EI9IM, VQ9AIW, UP2NM, ST2AR, VS9OC, VS9OM (Oman), UI8AK, VU-3KA, XW8AI 4X4JU, 9M2GE 2QL FB8XX*, FP8BG*, FR7ZD*, HR2FG*, LA3SG/P*, OY2H*, UP1NM*, UO5AA* VR1B*, ZP5LS* ZS7M*, LA2TD, OD5CI SU1MS UG6AB, UG6AW, VS9OM 2ZR DJ4YS*, DL1XH* DM2ACA*, F8TQ* G2DPD*, GC2FMV* BV1USB* GM-3LYS*, GW3EPM* HA5DH*, LA7JF*, LA7LG/P*, OH3OB*, OK1CG*, ON4FU* PA0FF* SM-7EH*, SP9DT*, UA3KAH*, UA0KDA, UC2KAR* YU3UQ*, ZS1WM* BERS195. CO2SW F2CB/FC, FO8AC, HP1AO, KM6BI, PY4AO, UI8AK, UP2NM, VP9EB, VS6BJ, VS9OC, XW8AI, YA-1AO. 9M2FR. 9M2GF. JA7KH/MM, JA3AFI/MM LA1OF/M 4X4ON/M Med 4DO W/K*, VE* JA*, BV1USB* CT1PM* CX6CB* DJ-2KS*, KU* DL1PJ* IA* DM2ACA*, AMG*, ADL*, F8NB*, AD*, F8NQ*, MI*, FA9KO*, G2DC* G3ASG*, GC2FMV* HA4YB HB-1RM* HB9PV* SL*, YL*, IICFY*, JT1AB*, LA7RE*, LU1NE* OK1YZ*, OK1KAM*, ON-4UR* PY4AO*, PY8YP*, SP3PL*, SP6FZ* SP9DT* UA0IK*, GF*, KCK*, UB5KIJ* UB-5BG*, VP8EN*, YU1KD*, DL7HZ EI9Y. FP8CI, G6FO, 3HQX, 8DV, GI3IVJ, I1ADW, OE3HY, WB, MP4BCU, ON4JB, OZ5PA, PX1CH, PA6VB, SP3KB, 8SR UA3MB, UB5FR. GA UW, KA0, KBA, UC2CB, KA0, UQ2AS, UR2AO, YA1AO, XZ2BB, ZK1AU, 4X4JN*, 9M2GE

14 Mc. Phone.—2AQJ s.s.b. 0800-0730z, DL-3IRZ*, G2CWL* G3HX*, GW2DUR*, K2IEG*, K6KTB* KG1AA* W5s*, 8*, 9* W7AEA*, HB-9SI*, W4FGH* VE3BWY* VE7ALR* VP9EC* 2AMB a.m. KZ5AV* YV5ABH*, TI2PI, KR-6CC XE1DO 3AOM a.m. HH2Z*, HP1IA*, I1AJF* I1VF* KL7FBA*, KZ5AV*, LA8LF/MM* TI2PI* VE3BQP*, VE1DDI* VR2DK*, YV5AIP* Ws* 4DO a.m.: W/Ks* KH6s*, VEs* EA8CC* G2PU, KA2KM*, OX3KW*, UA0GP*, VR2DA. BERS195. EA3JO, KW6CL, VK9RO L2001: DJ2MH. EA3JE. GW4CC, K5BFK. VE2TN L3048 EA3JE, G3HFD, JA-1BNK KR6AM. KR6CE, LA8LF/MM, W7LMP/MM, YB5AY L3065 a.m.: BV1US, FK8AU, G3HFD G3GFW, JA0DA, KH6ALR, RR, BTD, KR6IT all W call areas, ZLs; s.s.b.: BV1USE, BV1USC, ZLs, Ws, KX6BP, KX6BT, KR6DR, KR6DI, KR6CP, KR6RA, KX6BT, KH6DAI, YV5AF

21 Mc. C.w.—2QL: GB3RI*, OA3D*, XE1PJ, ZC5AF*, ZS5BA* 2ZR DJ3BN*, EI4A*, F9BG* G5HS*, I1ER*, HB9HX*, JZ0HA* DL-1QP* OA3D* OE1FR*, OK2OV*, ON4BU*, PA0HOR*, SM7BIR*, UA1NA*, UB5JX*, VU-2JA*, ZB2A* ZS4IO*, ZS5BA*, ZS6MP* 4DO: DL1SV* EI9J*, F8XS* G3FGY* MPN* GCD*, HJJ* G4MD* G6VG*, GM3JDR* GM3KGJ*, HB9YI*, OH1TY*, SM5BAS*, SM5CCE*, SM-7BIR* UA4HP*, UA4IF*, UC2AD*, VK9RO*, ZC5AF*, W/Ks*, KH6s* VEs*, DL7AQ EA-7IA, FA8VN G8JO, HB9TT, HH2CB. OA3D, UA1BE. VQ4HT, ZB1AQ, KC4USV, ZE3JC, LA-1OF/M, 9M2FR, 9M2GE

21 Mc Phone.—4DO CN8EH*, CO8OK*, FB-8XX* FE8AH* FU8AC*, GW3UO*, HB9GA*, KR6HT* MP4BCC* UA0LO*, VU2NR* ZC-5AF*, ZS5PG* ZS6JW*, G4OV, G8CD, XE1KQ, MP4QAO. ZC4SC, VS1GQ L2001 G3JAF, FA-8WE, KH6BTE, KH6BFP, KL7ALZ, JA4HM, PZ0PD, VK9AA, VK9RO, VP1EEE, VR4BW/MM, XE1AX. YN1HW L3065 F8US, FU8AC, CT1SX, G2AMG, G3HZD, I1BPD, I1UA, KB-6BH, KHs, Ws, VR2AZ, VR2BC, VR2CS, VR-2CC, VR2DF, VR2AS.

QSLs RECEIVED

2AMB: CT2AI 2QL, VS9AC, VS9AS, CM-2QN, PZ1AP 2ZR: LZ1KRB, LZ1WD, LZ-2KDO, LZ1KBA, ZC4RD, HB9FD, OK1KDC, OK3MH, SP5AR. 3AOM: HK4EX, HP3FL, ON-4DZ, ON4GM. L2001 VK0DA, VK0PT, W6JYW, GM3EST, FK8AV. BERS195: DL0BR, DU1FO, EA8CG, FA8GY, HB1VL, K6QPJ/KW6. UC2BG, UD6AM, VK0RR, VR2DA, YK1AT, ZB1NB, ZS5RS, 9M2GE, PI1LS, VE0NI, VR2DG/MM.

Cards from Jan Mayen stations are not expected to be available before June next year (2QL)

All QSLs from the XE4B DX-pedition to Socorro Island activities were mailed during September XE1XX)

QSOs with Newfoundland or Labrador prior to April 1, 1949, count as a separate country from Canada for DXCC purposes.

QTHs YOU MAY NEED

FP8BG—Via VE2ABE.
FR7ZD—Via FB8BC
ZC5AF—Via M.A.R.T.S. (2QL).
YA1AO—Via DL6YI BERS195
VS9OC—Via R.S.G.B.
K6QPG/KW6—Box 88, Wake Island. (BERS195)
CE0ZA—P.O. Box 761, Santiago, Chile.
CP5AD—P.O. Box 990, Cochabama, Bolivia
FA8NL/SH—Jean Bourt, Poste Radio, Timihouh, Sahara. Africa.
FQ8AW—P. O. Box 298, Brazzaville, French Equatorial Africa.
JZ0DA—QSL via W2CTN
Ex-MP4BFC, ex-MP4BCL, ex-ZD5BFC, and ex-VO6BFC — QSL via G3BFC, W Wheeler, C/o. Int. Aeradio Ltd., College of Aeronautics, Cranfield, Bletchley, Bucks., England.
OA7H—P O. Box 538, Lima, Peru

I am again indebted to the following gentlemen for assistance given in compiling these notes

Don Chesser, W4KVX, Burlington, Kentucky, U.S.A., for the use of his DX Radio News Magazine (via 2QL). Bud 2AQJ, who is very active on s.s.b. and who found conditions to be variable during the month; some days good, others bad. Laurie 2AMB; your comments appreciated and supported by others. Frank 2QL hunts out the good "ones" between QSL Bureau chores. Hal 4DO has a new 21 Mc. quad working well. He also made W.A.C. in 21 minutes operating on 14 Mc.; congrats, OM, my best time is just under two hours. Barney L2001 has logged quite an impressive list. Mike L2048, your list is appreciated. Don L2022 had receiver trouble and a lot of time taken up with preparing for the A.O.C.P. examination, so did not send in a list. Hope you get through that theory and soon start stirring up the air around Holbrook. Ian L3065 is QSL manager for the Melb. Uni. A.R. Club. Best of luck in your coming examinations. Eric BERS195 is back from VK7 so will be more active this coming month. He says there is plenty of DX around, it only needs time to listen for it. George 3AOM finds the bands have not much improved. His comments are given elsewhere.

That is about all for this month, and thanks for your help

D.X.C.C. LISTING

Listed below are the highest twelve members in each section. New members and those whose totals have been amended will also be shown.

PHONE

Call	Cer. No.	C'nt-ries	Call	Cer. No.	C'nt-ries
VK6RU	2	233	VK6KW	4	194
VK6MK	43	230	VK4HR	12	192
VK4FJ	21	213	VK3BZ	3	176
VK3WL	14	211	VK4RW	22	164
VK3ATN	26	204	VK3EE	10	163
VK5AB	43	202	VK3DB	21	161
Amendments					
VK4DO	20	132			

C.W.

Call	Cer No.	C'nt-ries	Call	Cer No.	C'nt-ries
VK4FJ	29	246	VK3XU	48	213
VK3KB	10	245	VK3NC	19	208
VK3CX	36	240	VK3YL	39	203
VK3FH	15	236	VK5BY	45	202
VK3BZ	6	233	VK6RU	18	201
VK4HR	8	216	VK2EO	2	181
Amendments					
VK4DO	20	170	VK6KW	40	114
VK3RJ	42	160			

OPEN

Call	Cer No	C'nt-ries	Call	Cer. No.	C'nt-ries
VK4FJ	32	251	VK3WL	48	226
VK3ACX	8	250	VK3XU	61	221
VK6RU	8	250	VK3HQ	3	215
VK4HR	7	233	VK3JE	12	210
VK3BZ	4	231	VK2ATN	69	210
VK6MK	74	230	VK6KW	13	209
Amendments					
VK4DO	15	190	VKENO	78	116

* Call signs and prefixes worked.
z zero time—GMT

ORYX

(Low Voltage)

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PROTECT YOUR TRANSISTORS WITH ORYX

There is a danger of damage when soldering to transistor leads, due to A.C. leakage currents. The use of a low-voltage transformer supply, with earthed secondary is therefore recommended. Take care also that too much heat is not applied to flying leads. The ORYX iron, and a heat-sink such as heavy pliers gripping the lead between the contact point and the transistor, will ensure protection.

A *must* for Transistors

(actual size)

- *Fast heating element, ready for operation in less than one minute.*
- *Exclusive design features resulting in universal acceptance of ORYX as the standard miniature soldering instrument.*
- *The ORYX long life element will outlast several bits which are of tight push-on fit.*

Bit Dia.:	Volts	Watts	Nett Weight	Length	Recommended Use
Model 6 1/16" (Fixed)	6	6	0.25 oz.	6"	Electrical measuring instrument fine assemblies, hairsprings, R.F. pick-up and speech coils, hearing aid sub-assemblies, etc.
Model 6a 3/32" (Push-on)	6	6	0.25 oz.	6"	As for Model 6 (for extremely delicate work only).
Model 9 5/32" (Push-on)	6, 12, 24-27½	8.3	0.25 oz.	6"	Hearing Aids, Radio and TV Sub-assemblies, Coils, Electronic Instruments, Model Construction, Electro-Medical, etc.
Model 12 3/16" (Push-on)	6, 12, 24-27½	12	0.5 oz.	6.25"	Radio, Television, and Telecommunications assemblies
Model 18 3/16" (Push-on)	6	18	0.75 oz.	7¼"	For heavier work, heat capacity equivalent to that of most 80 watt soldering irons.

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MSP3.58

NOTES

FEDERAL

V.H.F CENTURY AWARD

Quite a long time ago the Federal Council of the W.I.A. approved of the introduction of a V.h.f Century Award (Certificate) to be issued to those who submitted proof by QSL cards of having made one hundred contacts on the v.h.f. bands.

Because of lack of finance the project has been "shelved" for some considerable time although initially a quantity of high quality certificate blanks were imported from the United States of America and are still in the possession of the Federal Executive.

At one stage members were called upon to submit a suitable design but no efforts were forthcoming. Since it is now proposed to continue with this project designs will be accepted. Anyone who would care to try their hand at designing a suitable certificate now has the chance. A fee of £5 will be paid for the design finally chosen. The lithograph design on the blank certificates is rose-red and a sample of this will be forwarded to anyone seriously interested in working out an appropriate v h.f design to be overprinted on the blanks. Please write and request a blank certificate to Mr. Straughair, Federal Executive, W I A , Box 2611W, G P O., Melbourne. In the event of a rush we might have to limit the number of blanks available for design purposes so be early.

When a design is completed it must be returned to Mr. Straughair who will submit it to the Executive. The design forwarded by any person will remain the property of the Institute. If any design not ultimately chosen for the V h.f. Century Award is subsequently used as a basic idea in part or in whole for any other Institute award, a fee of £5 will be paid to the designer, so please see that your name, call sign (if licensed) and address is clearly printed on the back of your design. Multi-color design will be acceptable although it is suggested that cost be considered when designing if more than one or two colors are proposed. Don't hesitate—do it now!

I.T.U. GENEVA

Reports from the I.A.R.U indicate that three of the principal officers of the I.T.U. Conference, elected during the first plenary session in August, are Amateurs.

Charles Acton, VE3AC, is chairman; Juan Antelli, LU9UL, is a vice-chairman; and Gerald Gross HB9IA (formerly W3GG., acting secretary-general of I.T.U., is a secretary of the conference.

At a second plenary meeting in August, the I.A.R.U. was one of the 16 international groups admitted to the conference.

John Clarricoats, G6CL, and Per-Anders Kinnman, SM5ZD, represented the Union at the opening and for some weeks after, however it is expected that they will be relieved later on by other representatives.

Secretary Budlong and A.R.R.L. assistant manager Huntoon are "Industry Members" of the American delegation, and have been assigned to the delegation's allocations group, working in that capacity in committee 4.

Early September the committee had completed preliminary examination of the spectrum below 4,000 Kc, and had commenced an initial exploration of proposals concerning the spectrum from 4 to 27.5 Mc.

The chairman of committee 4, Gunnar Pedersen, of Denmark, noted in passing that the various proposals appeared to divide the delegations into two opposing camps—those who wished to leave untouched the present allocations table in the high frequency band, and those who wished to make additional space available for broadcasting, mostly at the expense of the fixed service.

TWO NEW MEMBERS ON FEDERAL EXECUTIVE

The Headquarters Division of the W.I.A. has endorsed the co-option to the Federal Executive of two new members, Mr. David Rankin, VK3QV, and Mr. Tom Straughair, VK3ZIT.

Mr Rankin was formerly holder of the Limited A.O.C.P. and although his chief interest is in the v.h.f. field, he recently passed his morse code to gain the full transmitting license. As an experienced v.h.f. Amateur he will represent the v.h.f. groups on the Federal Executive and this representation will be the means by which matters raised by v.h.f. licensees all over the Commonwealth will be dealt with. V.h.f. licensees are therefore invited to raise any queries through their Division's Federal Councillor and Mr Rankin will be pleased to present the problems to the Federal Executive and advise of any decisions reached.

The Institute has grown considerably over the past five years or so, and with its growth comes more work. To cope with this and catch up with work which of necessity has had to be left "undone," the Federal Executive is being re-organised so that the work is more equitably distributed. This may take a little time, but it is envisaged that the results will eventually be well worthwhile. In this rearrangement Mr. Tom Straughair will be undertaking various outstanding projects and these will be notified to Federal Council and within these columns from time to time.

COMPOSITION OF FEDERAL EXECUTIVE

Federal Executive is composed of the undermentioned members who carry out the various appointments within the Executive:

President	Max Hull, VK3ZS
Vice-President	George Glover, VK3AG
Asst. Sec./Bus. Officer,	Bill Mitchell, VK3UM
Treasurer	Bob Boase, VK3NI
Publicity Officer	Lan Burston, VK3AZB
V.H.F Officer	David Rankin, VK3QV
Project Officer	Tom Straughair, VK3ZIT

George Glover also holds the appointment of emergency co-ordinator in addition to that of Vice-President.

CANCELLATION OF PRIVILEGES

In June last, A.R.R.L. received information that the Government of Ethiopa had cancelled all Amateur Radio licenses with the exception of one which is held by a member of the Royal Family.

JAPAN AMATEUR RADIO LEAGUE

This Society now has a membership of some 7,000, and became an incorporated society at its annual general meeting held in June. Kenichi Kajii was elected chairman of the Board of Directors.

The meeting was addressed by the President of the Japanese Red Cross who praised the role played by JAs in rescue work in disasters and citations were given to those who made outstanding contributions to Amateur activities.

[illegible] MARINE

Liberian Radio Service has granted Maritime Mobile privileges to Amateurs aboard Liberian ships. This concession was obtained by the Union Schweiz Kurzwellen-Amateure.

— . . . —

FEDERAL AWARDS

[illegible] ISLAND

Credit will now be given for contacts with ZL1ABZ on Kermadec Island. Cross-band contacts will not be considered for credit purposes.

G. Weynton, VK3XU, Manager.

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NEW SOUTH WALES

The September general meeting of the N.S.W. Division was held at Science House, Gloucester St., Sydney, on 25th Sept. The meeting opened at 8 p.m., the President, Dave 2EO, presiding. Three overseas visitors were present, namely, OH2MT, DL1SJ and Ted Klein. They were presented with a Call Book in commemoration of their visit to our meeting. Apologies for non-attendance were received from 2HT, 2APQ and 2WS. Following the usual formalities, 20 new members were admitted to the Division, making a total membership of 1,169.

A letter from the P.M.G. Department was read, regarding the severe interference being experienced on 28 Mc. The Department requested the co-operation of our members in identifying and locating the signal causing the QRM. Reports on this matter will be appreciated.

A report on the Slow Morse Transmissions was made. These transmissions are conducted on 3535 kc. each evening at 7.30 p.m. under the call VK2AWI. We are pleased to have a roster of operators from all over the State to operate this service to our members, and by all reports received members are most pleased with the efforts of those taking part. Undoubtedly this will assist many of our Associates and Limited ticket holders to the full call.

The lecture for the evening was delivered in a very workmanlike manner by Bob 2ZAR and dealt with v.h.f. and u.h.f. techniques. The material of his lecture and the apparently never ending supply of v.h.f. equipment held the interest of the gathering and a goodly number of questions were posed at the lecturer. The vote of thanks was passed by acclamation on the motion of 2ZR, who claimed that the v.h.f. bug had bitten after many years of activity, and we feel that as a result of such a lecture that many will follow in his path.

The Convention Minutes were then discussed and all were ratified with the exception of the item dealing with the proposed Convention at Easter 1960, which had been suggested to deal with the report on the Geneva Convention.

The meeting finally closed to allow the usual adjournment for coffee and the ragchew which continued until lights out at 11 p.m.

We hear that Chief 2XO, of Coffs Harbour, is ill in hospital and we hope that he will be much recovered by the time this issue reaches members. No doubt at a time like this, Chief would like to see or hear from his many friends made over many years of activity. The best to you, old man, from all.

We are sorry to report the loss suffered by Fred 2BM of his wife, who passed away on 5/10/59. Mrs. Treharne will be remembered by many of the older chaps as being an inspiration to all, and we would, by this means, like to convey to Fred, a Past President of this Division, our deepest sympathy in his great loss.

7th SOUTH WEST ZONE CONVENTION AT NARRANDERA

The Six Hour Day holiday week-end, Oct. 3-5, was the date of a very enjoyable Convention organised by members and their wives of the Narrandera Radio Club. Registrations exceeded the 100 mark. Readers may not be aware that the Narrandera Radio Club is composed of a number of Radio Amateurs, resident in the town, who are members of this Division.

The function was attended by Amateurs from all parts of the zone, Bob 3ML, Eric 2DY and Peg, and others from Sydney made the trip.

Following registration in the afternoon, the Convention commenced with a dinner held in the C.W.A. Hall which was attended by the whole gathering including the wives and children, who were amply catered for. An enjoyable programme followed consisting of an amateur hour and films, including one on the 1956 Olympic Games. Supper was served—the ladies officiating.

Sunday was devoted to a field day and despite the threatening conditions, the programme was run to time. The all band scramble was won by Ross 2PN, second prize was a draw between Stewart 2PL and Fred 2AJI. Hidden Tx Hunts were won by Bob 2ZHW and Lindsay 2ZLS, both of Wagga; the second hunt by Eddie 1VP, of Canberra, Bob 2ZHW being second. Blind Fold Tx Hunt was won by Nell 2ZCN, and the XYL of 2RS won the ladies' section of the hunt.

HUNTER BRANCH

The September monthly meeting was well attended and a varied and interesting lecture was given by Frank 2FX, on various Television subjects on the rx side. Stuart 2ZDF was welcomed back after his long stay in Melbourne and two new members Ian Fyfe and Doug Dickson were welcomed into the fold as associates. Frank promised to continue his lecture at a later date, a statement which was received with enthusiasm.

V.H.F. NOTES

At the time of going to press the v.h.f. notes from Frank O'Dwyer, VK3OF, had not arrived.

CONTEST CALENDAR

Compiled by W.I.A. Fed. Contest Com.

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"CQ" WORLD-WIDE:

CW Last week-end Nov. '59.

R.S.G.B. 21/28 Mc. PHONE CONTEST:

Dates 0700 hrs. Sat., Nov. 21, to 1900 hrs. Sun., Nov. 22, 1959.

Rules: See "A.R." October, 1959.

A couple of pars for the red face department. Who was the guy, south of here, who spoke into a dead mike for five minutes before he woke up to the fact that all meters registered zero. Anyone visiting his shack will now see a 40-watt amber bulb shining brightly. Also we wonder who was it who for many months tried desperately to charge his battery until he discovered that a wire had come loose inside his charger.

Dieting is the latest craze with 2ZL, 2AKX and 2AQR, of course the latter doesn't really need it.

Next general meeting of the Branch will be on Friday, Nov. 9, at the usual place, but I doubt if there will be a socia. meeting at 2XT's as Bill should be on the high seas by then.

Annual Dinner and Field Day

The second post-war Dinner and Eighth Annual Field Day were held on Oct. 3-4, and despite the continual rain there was an excellent roll-up and a good time was had by all. Again it was gentlemen only and 33 were seated before a sumptuous repast. President Lionel 2CS welcomed the visitors.

Whilst there were quite a few old-timers there who were reared by the Old Man and did their teething on the Wouff Hong, the accentuation was on the four old-timer guests, namely, 2HC, 2AXH, 2ZL and 2FP).

VK2HC.—Ray received his license in 1926 and was quickly amongst the DX, receiving the second certificate ever issued for W.A.C. phone. This was in 1930. Ray was beaten by one month by ON4UU. In 1931, Ray established the first VK2-3 28 Mc. two-way phone with VK3BQ and in the same year received the W.I.A. Certificate of Merit for being the first Amateur in the British Empire to W.A.C. on phone. During 1930-31 Ray acted as official W.I.A. broadcast station.

VK2ZL.—Bill's first license was in 1913 when as ODX, using a Siemen-Holtz 2-inch spark coil, he made such a mess of the ether that I believe the Russian jamming stations took over his gear. Due to many reasons Bill was off the air until 1924, but has been active ever since. Bill was Vice-President of the I.R.E. and in 1933 received Life Membership from that Institution. At present he is retired and is kept busy mowing lawns, mending clocks, etc.

VK2AXH.—Wal, the grand-daddy of them all found a license from somewhere or other in 1908 and in 1911 Wal went to the Antarctic with the late Sir Douglas Mawson as radio operator. Boy, can Wal tell some tales of that expedition. In 1910 he was Foundation Secretary of the Wireless Institute of Australia and at one time was Federal Secretary and President. For a while he had the call sign of 3YH, and about five years ago, like all true Amateurs, the urge returned and he disturbed the ether under the call sign of 2AXH. Now retired, he spends most of his time on the air. One of the things I admire about Wal is that he is an Amateur in the strictest sense and if there is anything that he can make he will make it—not buy it. In fact he does more experimenting than any other six chaps I know.

VK2FP.—Unfortunately, I understood that Ernie would not be at the Dinner and have very little to relate except the fact that he is now exclusively on 10 mx. God bless our wheel-chair warriors.

In proposing the toast to Amateur Radio and the W.I.A., Ray 2HC congratulated the Secretary, Gordon Sutherland, for the sterling work he did in connection with the Convention and hoped that the Hunter Branch would keep on with the good work. In response, Dave 2EO said it was one of his proudest moments to be able to be here and to thank Ray for all the things he said about the Institute which is the oldest in the world. What had been done by Executive can only be done by all members assisting and we could only progress if we assist in promoting interest of the younger generation—the school-boy. Dave also thanked Alan Fairhall and his colleagues for what they have done for Amateur Radio over the last few months.

The guest speaker Alan Fairhall, VK2KB, spoke at length re the I.T.U. and congratulated 2WI and 2AWX in the manner in which they broadcast their opposition to the cuts in frequency. When he raised the matter in Parliament he quickly had support on both sides of the house, including Messrs. Griffiths and Jones who were present at the Dinner. At present there is a clear indication that local option will not be exercised to make further reductions. Alan said that in his opinion the time has arrived when the control of Telecommunications should be taken from the P.M.G. and vested in a commission as in the United States, where the Amateur is at least represented.

The field day on Sunday at Blackall's Park was well suited to the blokes with webbed feet. The 7 Mc. scramble was won by Jim 2PM with Ken 2ANU runner-up; these same two won the 144 Mc. hunt in the afternoon. The morning hunt was won by Bob 2ASZ with 2PM in second position. On the social side, Helen Cowan and Betty Hall won the ladies' pitch-copper, the younger girls' went to Helen Sparkes, while Jimmy Hall carried off the boys' prize. The lucky numbers went to Mrs. Bailey and Norm 2ALJ. We must not forget to mention that the quiz was won by Secretary Gordon Sutherland which was a fitting gesture on the part of lady luck.

Did anyone see Les 2RJ and Stan 2ZDL put up a Gibson-girl balloon for the scramble only to have it blown away in the gale? They then put up the kite, but the wind dropped and so did the kite!

Alan Fairhall, M.H.R. (VK2KB), guest speaker at the Hunter Branch Dinner, discussing Amateur Radio matters with Lionel Swain, VK2CS (left), and Dave Dall, VK2EO (right).

History of Griffith Radio Club

The first meeting was held on 21st October, 1952, when it was decided to form the Griffith Radio Club. The main function was to be, and still is, that assistance be given to prospective Radio Amateurs to obtain the A.O.C.P. license.

The lectures were, for several years, given almost entirely by 2PL and it is to him that most appreciation must go from the number of members who have obtained their tickets. Recently 2PL has been ably supported by 2AXD and 2ACS, and to others to a lesser extent.

It has been found that the lecturing programme has thrown a heavy burden on the few, and this year we have been able to obtain a course of papers prepared to assist prospective Amateurs, from the N.S.W. Division of the W.I.A. The club is appreciative of this action as it is of great help to lecturers, enabling less experienced members to assist in this regard.

The club has its own club rooms and has available two transmitters and two receivers and works under the call sign of VK2AQJ. The meetings are held every Tuesday and as a variation to lectures, occasional film evenings are held when members' families can attend. The President, 2ZEC, has been very helpful in lending his projector for these film evenings. He is supported by 2ZCN, the present Secretary.

The club is proud of its record of being instrumental in obtaining for members so many A.O.C.P. licenses. The complete list of Griffith Hams, five of whom have left Griffith during the last two years, is VKs 2PL, 2ACS, 2AXD, 2FS, 2AVJ, 2ADZ, 2NV, 2HJ, 2AEB, 2AQX, 2ADM, 2AYZ, 2ZEC, 2ZCN, 2ZJL.

Albury Radio Club

At the time of going to press the Albury Radio Club is really getting organised on the job of training new Amateurs, a team of lads who compose a large part of the total membership. The W.I.A. course is being used and the enthusiasm of the senior members will be rewarded in the end by quite a few of these chaps attaining their ticket.

The club has applied for a call sign, and as practical exercises the students are being taught how to build their gear by building the club transmitter under the supervision of the instructors. This certainly is an excellent way to maintain interest in the younger members.

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VICTORIA

STATE CONVENTION

The Tenth Annual State Convention was held at Stawell on Saturday and Sunday, 3rd and 4th October. As the visitors arrived they were welcomed with refreshments in the "Dungeon," at Bill 3AKW's building. Our thanks go to the ladies who assisted in the provision of afternoon tea which was very welcome to those who had travelled long distances to Stawell.

The Convention dinner was held at the Commercial Hotel and we were honoured by the presence of the Mayor of Stawell, also the Town Clerk, Shire President, Past Mayor and Past Shire President.

After the speeches were over the Mayor, Cr. Hallam, presented the Kinnear Trophy to Jim 3ABT, who accepted it on behalf of the winners—the South Western Zone.

During the business session of the Convention, the following topics were discussed: Commercial interference in the 40 metre Amateur band, Federation of the W.I.A., Disposals, and W.I.C.E.N.

It was reported that there is very little chance of a civil defence organisation being set up in Victoria and so the possibility of official government authorisation cards for W.I.C.E.N. operators is remote.

On Sunday morning a large group of Amateurs gathered at 3HL's shack to put on the 3WI broadcast, but unfortunately conditions on the 40 metre band were very poor and the coverage was limited.

An enjoyable picnic lunch was held in delightful surroundings at Hall's Gap, after lunch some disposals items were disposed of.

In the afternoon a tx hunt was held on 80 mx, the mountainous country producing some unusual effects on the signal. The winner was John 3AGD.

NATIONAL FIELD DAY CONTEST

The Divisional Council has decided to award a perpetual trophy for competition between the zones and affiliated clubs of the Victorian Division in the N.F.D. Contest.

Each competing zone or club to enter a team in the N.F.D. must forward the claimed score being the sum of both the c.w. and phone scores, to the Divisional Secretary by the same date as entries are due with the Contest Committee. These scores will be confirmed with the Contest Committee.

The winner will hold the trophy for a period of one year.

NORTH EASTERN ZONE

Radio Australia seems to be the home of Hams or potential Hams. Besides the regulars that you and I know, there are others who remain in obscurity. There are at present two Hams who have held G calls who are out here for further experience in radio transmission. They have VK call signs now, being Ted 3APU and Dick 3APZ, so if and when you hear them, give them a shout and make them feel welcome to this zone. I hope that these two boys will be available to attend the Convention this month so that we will be able to welcome them in person. So what about it, Ted and Dick.

Another new call sign (to me, anyway) is 3AEU (Alan), who is in the process of building a dual wave car radio which I suspect will be used eventually for mobile work as I hear space has been left for a tx. Bill 3AHO heard on 20 mx calling Gs and on my frequency, too! Shame on you, Bill, I thought you were an exclusive "Donald Duck" station by now.

Bruce 3AGG not very active these days, even missed by Ws on the band, but since Bruce has a building programme lined up, I can't see him battering his appearances on the band very much. (Holy smoke, I forgot I had a sked with you Bruce). Not there, but a beaut. W signal was, how I get diverted. Bruce has also taken to pounding brass again with new country results.

The salt mines of Benalla have mail out only twice a year so nothing from that quarter.

If space allows, and the Editor permits, I am about to embark on a policy speech why I should NOT be the new zone correspondent. I'll be brief. QRL and QRU.

See you at the Convention. Remember, ATTEND to DEFEND! 73.

MOORABBIN & DISTRICT RADIO CLUB

At the general meeting held in September it was decided to take advantage of Morrie 3AMA's offer to put on a film night, and a film depicting present day China will be shown at our October meeting. It was also decided to conduct a "White Elephant" night instead of our practical evening on Friday 9th November. So any members who have surplus gear, bring it along that night for sale. A small percentage of the proceeds will go to club funds.

As was anticipated, the gala opening night was a huge success, thanks to members bringing guests, and mainly to Max 3DF's generosity in supplying the excellent supper, and to the liquid refreshments—without which there would not have been nearly as much good cheer.

Lack of notes for last month's magazine was caused by a holiday for three weeks through N.S.W. to Surfers' Paradise and return. A Type 3 Mk. II was taken and some fine contacts from various places were enjoyed.—SLC.

QUEENSLAND

BRISBANE AND DISTRICT

Sorry for the lack of notes over the last few months and we will try to make up for it in the future. The Divisional Council had quite an unexpected resignation at the September Council meeting. Stan 4SA had to resign from all jobs on Council due to the ill-health of his XYL who is to have an operation in the near future. A little bird told us that Dave 4DP will be doing the job, so there isn't anything to worry about. The President's job went to the Vice-President, Bruce 4BZ. We are very sorry to lose you, Stan, but we know you will still support us to the fullest. Mrs. 4SA is well known to the Brisbane gang and all the chaps who did Stan's course have a soft spot in their hearts for her. By the way, Stan's resignation also includes the class managership and there is quite a few blokes in Brisbane who became Hams as a result of Stan's class. By gosh, we're going to have a heck of a job getting a replacement for the Class Manager!!

As you have no doubt heard, Council has given the "go-ahead" for the formation of branches throughout the Division and, at the October meeting, a committee will be formed to handle everything concerned with this important business.

My old pal, Bob 4RW, asked, in his September Townsville notes, if the "one-eyed monster" was the reason for the absence of the Southern Queensland gang from the bands. Well, Bob, the T.v.i. Committee assures us that they haven't had any business as yet and I think the absence of Brisbane Hams from the bands is caused by t.v. and not t.v.i. The stations put out such tremendous signals and our 100 to 180 watt rigs only put out microvolts and can't compete with millivolts. I checked my rig on all bands from 80 through to 10 with a monster in my own home and didn't see or hear any t.v.i. When the t.v. stations were off the air, I did put some nice modulation bars on the screen on Channel 2. This station was only on 28 kw. at the time with test patterns and when it came on the air the modulation bars were nowhere to be seen.

Do you know, my electric face scraper caused more trouble than my rig and when the three stations are on as much as they are in VK2 and VK3, I'll either have to go back to a safety razor or grow a beard again. 4EL will tell you how ghastly 4PR looks with a beard. No, Bob, the blokes down here are probably spending their evenings curled up in front of a t.v. receiver watching the continuous extermination of cowboys by guns (only in the hands of the "goodies") which fire 40 or 50 shots without reloading. (Our experience down under is that you have to sweep out all the dead cowboys and Indians from behind the t.v. set each night before retiring.—Editor.)

Frank 4ZM told me about a t.v. salesman who was demonstrating t.v. to a family who live near his QTH. Dad, Mum and all seven kids were at the front gate to help the salesman carry the receiver into the house. The youngest kid, a little chap of about four, piped up: "Let me carry the antenna; I always carry the antenna!!"

You 40 metre inhabitants have probably heard Frank 4FN back in his old territory and it's mighty nice to see him at general meetings. We also have had some of the Ipswich boys attending lately and I, personally, have often wondered why they haven't been regular in the past. After all, it's only 25 miles and Mick 4ZAA comes almost that distance to every meeting.

Well, it's good to be back on the job and I'll keep my note book handy to jot down notes. Cheers from 4PR.

TOWNSVILLE

The monthly meeting held on Sept. 14 at the usual place was greatly attended, in fact a couple who have been missing lately rolled along. The chairman, 4PS, went to great trouble to explain the circular he had sent to all Amateurs for a radius of 300 miles, inviting them to a get-together hamfest of the local club and asking for replies. Lo and behold, only one Amateur replied by letter, thanking for the invitation and apologising that he would not be present. While it clashed with the "Industries Fair" station to be held in Cairns no word was received from the far northern boys.

Claude 4UX brought along two new associate members from Ayr and mentioned the fact that his classes were on the way with nine hopefuls, and the XYL Jess, I hope so. Claude will get used to the can opener when the coveted ticket arrives. Frank 4PF spoke of the local class of which 12 attend, including three XYLs. He is certain all will stay the distance and hopes all will gain the coveted A.O.C.P. As Frank will be going on holidays next month, Bill 4ZBE will take over class manager responsibilities and in the New Year others will be appointed. The club wish both classes 100 per cent. passes.

Band openings are beginning and 10 metres has a few callers now. 15 and 20 metre bands are good while they last, and now summer is arriving, great things are expected. On 50 Mc. the nightly openings to Japan are continuing, also a night to KH6 each week. Japan has been heard calling 9M2DQ, so we are all poised for the break through from Townsville when the telephones will ring madly to inform all.

Eric 4EL can be heard in the wee small hours working the DX while all good people are asleep. John 4DD busy painting the tower before erection; going to slay 'em with new tower and s.s.b. Mike 4OM in trouble on reference shift modulation; swears by all things that Claude 4UX tampered with the circuit drawings. Ken 4ZAK on holidays and still maintains sked with Vern 4LK on 144 Mc.

Speaking of holidays, I will be away from QTH from 14th October to 14th December, visiting Perth (Oct. 21-31), Adelaide (Nov. 2-8), Melbourne (Nov. 9-13), Sydney (Nov. 14-22) and arrive in Brisbane on Nov. 23. Hope to see as many of the gang as possible.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The monthly general meeting of the leading Division of the W.I.A., to wit, VK5, was held in the clubrooms to a capacity gathering of members, all of whom had come only for the privilege of hearing the convention items read out. Rex 5DO read out the items and all were ratified in the record time of 30 minutes, and the audible sighs of relief from the members at its conclusion bore ample proof of their intense interest in all the items.

A technical lecture was scheduled as next on the programme, and in view of some uncertainty as to who was the lecturer, Gordon 5XU stepped into the breach and gave a very interesting and instructive talk on the modifications of the Command tx for double sideband. Gordon's ability as a lecturer is so well known that any words of mine in commendation would be supurf—superflew—well, any way, they would be unnecessary. Les 5UX, on a visit from Hawker, proposed the vote of thanks and added the fact that with all the new improvements such as single sideband, double sideband, etc., etc., it was about time that something was done to improve his middle band. Whilst I would be the first to agree with him, only my modesty prevents me from telling him that if he exercised like me, it is possible that he might some day have a figure like mine. They don't call me the Rose Park Apollo for nothing!

However, let's not digress, general business brought up the matter of the policy of the Housing Trust and the erection of aerials by members of the W.I.A., and it was decided that Council should make the necessary enquiries.

John 5JC spoke on the matter of W.I.C.E.N. and the fact that although some 23 mobile tx's and rx's have been released to members for the purpose of using them in W.I.C.E.N., it is only with difficulty that five or so active members can be coaxed on the air for the Sunday night roll-call, etc.

The meeting closed at the witching hour of 10.30 p.m., officially, but it goes without saying that unofficially it never closed at all. Now I hope that this summary of the meeting is at least somewhere near accurate because I have an awful confession to make. I was not present at the meeting and I secured my information secondhand. To tell the truth, my son-in-law twisted my arm until in sheer pain I agreed to go fishing with him all day, and when I returned my XYL lifted me up and kissed me on the forehead, and said how tired I looked and perhaps I had better not go to the meeting. I sternly said that it was my duty to go, and I can honestly say that I meant it, but whilst waiting for the fourteenth course at dinner, I fell asleep and she carried me up to bed, tucked me in, put out the hurricane lamp, and crept out of the tent. I was very, very cross when I woke up the next morning, but what can one say when the rolling pin is so handy? (Remember the old proverb, Pansy, "DX Before Dishes!!—Editor.)

Heard Joe 5JO and David 5DS in contact one Sunday recently and, boy, oh boy, has that David got a Scotch accent. If John 5JW ever contacts him they will never separate them. I was that taken up with the accent that I could not switch off. I wish that I had one like it, I would get me a job on this new fangled idea t.v. and I bet I would get all the fan mail in the world. Nice to hear you Dave, hope we contact someday. Thanks for the beam, Joe, it's a beauty. All the local peasants are green with envy, especially Norm Coltman.

Jim 5JB is a new one from Leigh Creek, which to the uninitiated is a low-cut coal mine to the North of Adelaide. He was using a Command tx-modulator, feeding a random length aerial on 7 Mc. when I heard him. Welcome OM, good to hear you on the air. Speaking of Leigh Creek reminds me that Tom 5AQ is still overseas but is expected back very soon. This will be two stations from up there, and although it will not be the Northern Territory, it is still a long way toward the North.

Looking idly through the new Call Book this week I got quite a shock to see the call of 5BY jump out at me. I checked up to see just what it meant and find that it is a misprint and should read 5ZBY (Lance). I feel sure that good old Dougal would have been the first to wise-crack about this error in no uncertain fashion.

Jim 5FO is at the moment engaged in a mighty struggle for supremacy with the one-eyed monster—no not you, Rae, sit down. He is trying his hand at building a t.v. set and obviously enjoying it. Naturally, this mighty effort leaves little time for his first love, Amateur Radio, but we have not lost hope as yet.

Charlie 5ON heard on 40 wih a good signal each Sunday morning. When heard here was in QSO with Joe 5JO, but as Joe was surrounded by welders, sparking insulators, pole transformers blowing up and other sundry noises, the contact appeared to be a little one-sided. If the operator of the welding machine could have only heard Joe's description of those people that used welding machines on a Sunday morning, he would have gone immediately to his parents and asked several pertinent questions!

Hurtle 5HW apparently is well satisfied with 14 Mc. because he sticks to it like glue. In view of the fact that on the two occasions he was heard at my QTH he was in contact with UI8 and K8 respectively, I can't say I blame him. Doc 5MD is still flourishing and active in Amateur Radio with his 3.5 Mc. code classes on Sunday nights, his disposal duties, his Council duties and also still bears the grand sounding title of custodian of the instruments. He still tries to lure me into becoming a boarder at his guest house, but with more luck than judgment I am managing to elude the clutches of his minions! Only just, however.

Johnny ex-5KO is back in VK5 from VK3 and if rumours can be believed he is Postmaster-General, Premier, Leader of the Opposition, or possibly Governor-General. Your scribe, with his usual perspik—purspicas—perspecas—well, with his usual ability to nose out the facts, is pleased to announce that Johnny has retired from the P.M.G. and is now the Production Engineer for ADS7. He has reserved the call 5KO; he expects to be in a house before long and it goes without saying that he has been listening on his beloved 80 mx. Now that he is no longer an R.I., it will permit me to join the select few who can write "Now it can be told." Space does not permit me to tell the full story now, but be sure to secure your copy of "A.R." next month and read the true story of how a courageous and gallant member of the VK5 fraternity once succeeded in pulling the lion's tail, and got away with it.

There was a ring on the nuclear atomic carbon pile doorbell of the b.b.s.s. the other night (nothing but the best equipment at the best broadcasting station in the state) and when I pressed the talk-back button and said in my usual polite manner, "What do you want, mug?" a quiet well spoken voice said, "It's a carrier pigeon from the S.E." Grabbing a handful of wheat from the announcer's pocket, I rushed out to the door, and I have never seen a carrier pigeon look so much like Claude 5CH. Boy, was I glad to see him. Taking off his carrier pigeon disguise he came into the control room and we had a long chat, during which I extracted enough information about the S.E. gang to satisfy even me. Claude himself is down in the city on behalf of the Electricity Trust seeing how the big wheels go round and will be here for about a fortnight. He naturally has not been too active but manages to keep 40 alive; is in the throes of the re-build that will end all re-builds (famous last words), and has also managed to see all of his mates in the city whilst here.

Erg 5KU is still keen on 14 Mc. and his c.w. signals can be heard calling the DX at all odd times. John 5JA is keener on the one-eyed monster than on Amateur Radio at the moment, but as he is interested from a business angle we can possibly pardon this lapse from grace. Let's hope it won't last too long. Leo 5JG is chasing the DX on 14 Mc. and is fast

assuming the mantle of Stuart 5MS with regard to DX. 5MS has switched his allegiance from 14 to 21 Mc, and can be heard calling the rare ones at odd times. Have a listen for my signal Stuart, quite a number of the local peasants keep on telling me that my signal is exceptionally rare!

Col 5CJ has a casual contact on 40 now and again, but is by no means as active as he used to be. He came along to the meeting the last time he was down here and renewed his acquaintance with the gang. Tom 5TW bobs up on 7 Mc. now and again, but he is another one that has slowed down a little on the air. He was going at top speed, however, when heard here in the R.D. Contest. How did you go Tom? Don 5ZBG is in the process of getting up steam to come on the air at the moment of writing, but if he doesn't hurry up we will have to alter his call to 5NBG. Oh, I can be witty when I like! The South East gang appear to be pretty keen, if the attendance at their monthly meetings can be taken as a guide. A recent meeting took the form of an inspection of the new Mount Gambier automatic telephone exchange, and under the guidance of 5JG the inspection was appreciated by all.

No news from the West Coast boys this month. Heard Wally 5DF on the 5WI call-back last Sunday, but as he simply said, "Hello and goodbye," that was not much good, was it? Ken 5AL heard on 7 Mc. this month with a good signal. He has not been on the air for some time, probably not since he left the North, but I have heard him occasionally on 3.5 Mc. He is now living in one of the Adelaide suburbs and should be heard consistently now that the bug has bitten again. John 5KX, the chairman of the VK5 W.I.C.E.N., has been heard on 40 and 80 at odd times over the month, but any other activity on the air remains his secret.

John 5JC, assisted by his XYL Betty, is the father of a bonny bouncing daughter this month, and all are doing well. Some doubt existed for a while as to whether or not John would recover, but as the medico said in an interview this week, "He had never lost a father yet, and whilst John gave him a little anxiety at the time, he was never really worried!" We Amateurs are made of stern stuff.

Earlier I made mention that Tom 5AQ was still overseas. As soon as he heard this he made a lightning dash by sea, land and air, and bobbed up on 40 at the call-back by 5WI after the session. I have made the necessary alteration to my spy staff, and the only thing that worries me is that my palsy-walsy the editor will possibly get the idea that this explanation is only another dodge to get more space in his excellent magazine. However, I think he knows me better than that!

There are old-timers and real old-timers in Amateur Radio, and I bumped into a real old-timer this month in the person of Lance Jones (5BQ). He was one of the original half a dozen or so pioneers in VK5 of our grand old hobby, and incidentally was one of the builders of the First and Best Broadcasting Station in VK, none other than 5DN, which I have the honour of being on the pay-sheet. Starting as an Amateur Station it has grown to be the power that it is in VK5 because of the enthusiasm of its technical staff, all Radio Amateurs and proud of it, although other factors have possibly been of some assistance, ahem! Lance is looking fit and well and wishes to be remembered to all who may remember him, although not active and naturally lost his call sign, he still leans toward Amateur Radio as a hobby.

Comps 5EF is heard occasionally on 40 at my location, but is apparently busy grinding grain. His brother is busy grinding his brains in an attempt to get his ticket at the next exam., and as this is being read probably now knows whether it was worth while or not. Best of luck OM.

VK5 has always been called the "City of Culture," it has sometimes been called the "City of Churches," and once it was called by a disgruntled VK3 sub-editor named Pincott, the "City of Pubs." We in VK5 have our simple code of ethics and standards of behaviour, and it sometimes seems strange to us when others do not come up to our accepted standards. Bearing this in mind, imagine my horror and disgust the other night when I heard with my own ears a certain VK3 announce to all and sundry on 40 that he had allowed some s.w.l's. to take away a pile of chassis and junk, thus saving him the trouble and expense of squaring off the dustman when he called. Now how low can one get, the jeering chuckle that ended his confession so unnerved me, that I have not yet brought myself to look for his name in the call book in order to unmask him to the world. I think that I am strong enough to check up now, so just a second whilst I turn the pages, VK3R— VK3RN—R. W. Higginbot—

OBITUARY

ATHOL W. JOHNSON, VK7AJ

It is with the deepest regret that we record the passing of Athol W. Johnson, VK7AJ, on September 8, 1959, after a long illness.

Athol, who was one of Tasmania's most progressive Amateurs, was first licensed in September 1947 and quickly gained recognition by his outstanding skill and technical knowledge. He was keenly interested in v.h.f. work and was one of the few Tasmanian Amateurs who worked consistently on 2 and 6 mx. His car, which was originally equipped to work mobile on 40 mx was soon re-fitted with 2 mx gear complete with a halo antenna and the many contacts he had with this equipment gave him much satisfaction. His main station comprised an all-band tx and rx which worked in conjunction with rotary beams on 20, 10, 6 and 2 mx, a ground plane on 20 mx, a zepp type and a long wire which extended for approx. 1,000 ft. across the valley close to his home in Romilly St., South Hobart.

He was an exceptionally versatile man with many and varied interests. He was a highly skilled craftsman and his exceptionally well equipped workshop contained many machines and test equipment of his own design and construction.

Although confined to his bed for much of his time in recent years, he managed to keep in close touch with Amateur Radio via a bedside set. His vigilance on frequencies outside the Amateur bands brought its reward when he was instrumental on Jan. 8, 1958, in bringing about the rescue of the luxury motor cruiser "Corsair III." which was in difficulties off Beecroft Head, N.S.W. with engine trouble and was in danger of drifting onto the rocks. His distress signals were first heard by Athol who immediately alerted the O.T.C. staff at Hobart with the result that the vessel and its crew were all saved.

He was an enthusiastic member of the Tasmanian Division of the Wireless Institute of Australia and took an active part in all its activities. He was a member of the Council for four years and was also v.h.f. officer and Federal Councillor. He gave many lectures at the Institute's meetings and all were characterised by a thoroughness of preparation and were given in a clear and concise manner. The many practical tips given as a result of his own experience were an outstanding feature.

As a man, Athol possessed a most likeable disposition with an infectious cheery sense of humour. He never failed to help those who turned to him for assistance with their technical problems. One of his most outstanding qualities was the courageous fight which he put up during his long illness. His fortitude in this regard was one of those rare and wonderful examples of a dogged determination in the face of a relentless malady. His untimely passing was a severe blow to all who knew him. To his widow and daughter we extend our heartfelt sympathy in their sad bereavement.

R. W. Hig—R. W. Hig—BLIME! Oh well, I suppose that there is always two sides to every question, and I don't think that any dustman should be given radio parts. Ethics and standards can be stressed too much, and after all, Editors must have some privileges not granted to we lesser mortals. Personally, I think it was a wonderful thought to give the s.w.l's. a gift and probably saved the dustman some hard work, and without doubt such a fine, generous, kind-hearted, upstanding chap like this 3RN would only do the right thing as a natural reaction. PHEW!

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TASMANIA

We extend our best wishes to Alex 7AX, Chairman of the Federal Contest Committee, who has been on the sick list for some time now; a speedy recovery, Alex. The Contest Committee, together with a band of helpers, has been very busily engaged in checking Remembrance Day logs, since about the middle of September. Their task in this particular Contest should soon be over, and our thanks are due to them for their considerable efforts on behalf of Amateurs generally. Incidentally, this Division has grounds for satisfaction because of the return of 67 contest logs out of the 68 stations which took part. Never before has the return of logs been such a high proportion of the number of stations taking part.

At the time of writing, the phone section of the VK/ZL Contest is over, and I would say that conditions were as bad as they have ever been during a contest. Most of the 24 hours passed without the semblance of a DX signal. For only about two hours were signals audible and then only with considerable QSB and QRN.

Charlie 7KS is now v.f.o. controlled and has a modulator in service. Snowy 7CH and yours truly must now be about the only c.w. men left now. Jim 7JO will soon be domiciled in Hobart, so our gain will certainly be Devonport's loss. Welcome to the big smoke, Jim.

Bob 7OM has been resident in ZL for most of September and the first half of October. We hope that all was not work, Bob. Jack 7JB is again active on all bands, since the removal of the power noise about the end of September. Keith 7RX has a 122 set in operation and would appreciate any reports on its operation, particularly from a distance.

Stereo is now all the rage with the record connoisseur. Well, Myles 7JF will be able to show you how cabinets to house such fine equipment should be made, good work Myles. The time and weather for trying out your portable gear will soon be upon us, and the W.I.C.E.N. net hopes to have such an exercise either in November or December, so get your portable rigs ready chaps.

NORTH WESTERN ZONE

Time marches on. The most important item of interest to report this month is that about half a dozen of our associate members had a shot for the A.O.C.P., and I feel sure that everyone will wish them the best of luck. More QRM I suppose in the not too distant future. More participants for the R.D. Contest next year.

Our October meeting was held on the 6th and I regret to say was very poorly attended indeed. With exam. over for associates we look forward to a much better attendance next month. We hope an eventual member in the person of Athol Burk was welcomed and he made the number up to thirteen. The meeting's business was disposed of, interspersed with several interesting and enlightening discussions which I think ironed out several matters whilst others were left in abeyance pending further natural development. Some quite useful pieces of equipment were disposed of by auction.

I do believe we are losing Jim 7JO to the Southern end of the island. Myles 7MF sneaked down South from up this way a short while back and Peter 7PF betook himself off to the Launceston area. I sincerely hope no more of our members decide to leave us for a while at least, not until we have patched up our ranks once more.

Frank 7FH has got himself a really big power transformer and is at present working out means by which he can get himself some really high high-tension from it with the minimum outlay in db. Yours truly still hasn't done any more to the new rig; still deriving great enjoyment having quiet QSOs with 10 watts.

The zone net each Tuesday and the W.I.C.E.N. net are still functioning OK with the regular few holding the fort. How about a few more joining in, especially on the Tuesday night rally. It won't be long now before we start tx hunts again chaps, so it wouldn't be a bad idea if you sorted out the d.f. gear once more.

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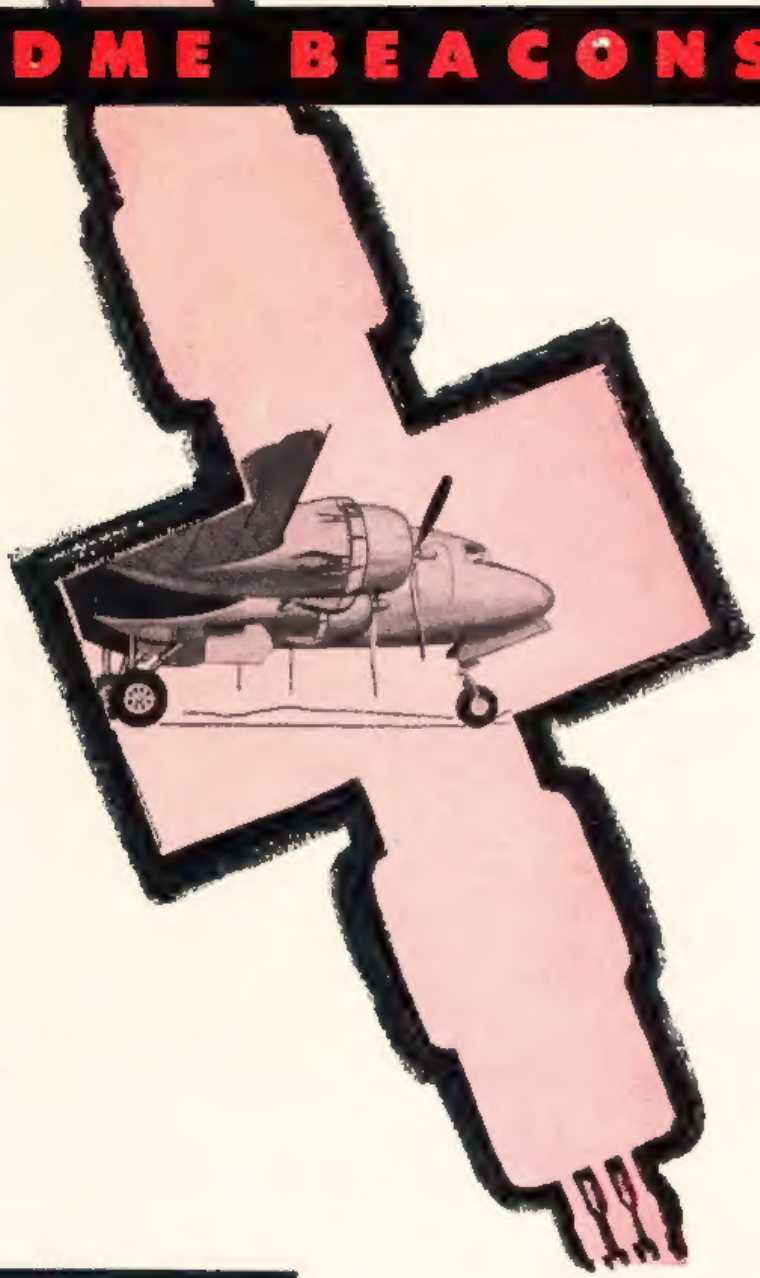

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